

Flight Risk

DAVID ESPO
JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under growing pressure, the Obama administration signaled Wednesday it might accept legislation eliminating Federal Aviation Administration furloughs blamed for lengthy delays affecting airline passengers, while leaving the rest of \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts in place. The disclosure came as sentiment grew among Senate Democrats as well as Republicans for legislation to ease the impact of



Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Michael Huerta testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 24, 2013. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

the cuts on the FAA, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood held talks with key senators.

"I think there was a meeting of the minds" on steps to remedy the situation, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., said after the meeting. He said he hoped for a resolution before the Senate begins a scheduled week-long vacation at week's end.

Said LaHood, "There are too many delays and common ordinary citizens are being affected."

Continued on Page 4

Bad Karma



Henrik Fisker, founder of Fisker Automotive, right, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 24, 2013, before the House Oversight subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs hearing about Energy Department loans to the failed electric car maker.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Obama administration missed clues on Fisker

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department did not realize for four months that troubled automaker Fisker Automotive Inc. had missed a crucial production target that was required as part of a half-billion dollar government loan, documents released Wednesday show. The mistake allowed Fisker to obtain an additional \$32 million in government funding before the loan was suspended in June 2011. The Obama administration did not make the suspension of the \$529 million loan public until early last year, nearly eight months after it stopped making payments to Fisker and long after the Energy Department first

warned that Fisker was not meeting milestones to protect taxpayers.

The administration's actions — or failure to act — came under sharp criticism from Republicans Wednesday at a hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. They accused the Obama administration of negligence and worse while Democrats dismissed the hearing as a "show trial" intended to embarrass the president.

"The committee's efforts to stoke false controversy by selectively leaking a few out-of-context documents just do not stand up to scrutiny," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters Wednesday.

But Rep. Jim Jordan, chairman of the Oversight subcommittee on economic growth and regulation, said it was hard to understand why the Energy Department ever thought Fisker was a viable company that should receive taxpayer money.

Jordan called the loan program "one of the most disastrously mismanaged and corrupt programs in U.S. history," a claim committee Democrats scoffed at. Democratic Rep. Matt Cartwright said the \$192 million received by Fisker before the loan was suspended represents just 2 percent of an \$8 billion loan program to boost electric cars and other advanced vehicles.

Even if Fisker goes bankrupt, as many expect, the loan program is on track to recoup 98 percent of its investment, Cartwright said. The oversight panel is looking into the federal loan to the troubled carmaker, which has laid off three-fourths of its workers amid continuing financial and production problems. Fisker has not built a vehicle since last summer and has failed to secure a buyer as its cash reserves have dwindled. Despite those losses and widespread reports that bankruptcy is imminent, the company's founder and namesake said Wednesday he is proud of its achievements.

Continued on Page 4

Minaret of historical mosque in Syria destroyed

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The 11th-century minaret of a famed mosque that towered over the narrow stone alleyways of Aleppo's old quarter collapsed Wednesday as rebels and government troops fought pitched battles in the streets around it, depriving the ancient Syrian city of one of its most important landmarks. President Bashar Assad's government and the rebels trying to overthrow him traded blame over the destruction to the Umayyad Mosque, a UNESCO world heritage site and centerpiece of Aleppo's walled Old City.

"This is like blowing up the Taj Mahal or destroying the Acropolis in Athens. This mosque is a living sanctuary," said Helga Seeden, a professor of archaeology at the American University of Beirut. "This is a disaster. In terms of heritage, this is the worst I've seen in Syria. I'm horrified."

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a commercial hub, emerged as a key battleground in the nation's civil war after rebels launched an offensive there last summer. Since then, the fighting has carved the city into rebel- and regime-held zones, killed thousands of people, forced thousands more to flee their homes and laid waste to entire neighborhoods.

The Umayyad Mosque complex, which dates mostly from the 12th century, suffered extensive damage in October as both sides fought to control the walled compound in the heart of the old city. The fighting left the mosque burned, scarred by bullets and trashed. Two weeks earlier, the nearby medieval covered market, or souk, was gutted by a fire sparked by fighting.

With thousands of years of written history, Syria is home to archaeological treasures that date back to biblical times, including the desert oasis of Palmyra, a cultural center of the ancient world. The nation's capital, Damascus, is one

of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. At least five of Syria's six World Heritage sites have been damaged in the fighting, according to UNESCO, the U.N.'s cultural agency. Looters have broken into one of the world's best-preserved Crusader castles, Crac des Chevaliers, and ruins in the ancient city of Palmyra were damaged. Both rebel and regime forces have set up bases in some of Syria's significant historic sites, including citadels and Turkish bath houses, while thieves have stolen artifacts from museums.

The destruction of the minaret — which dated to 1090 and was the oldest surviving part of the Umayyad

Mosque — brought outrage and grief.

"What is happening is a big shame," said Imad a-Khal, a 59-year-old Christian businessman in Aleppo. "Thousands of tourists used to visit this site. Every day is a black day for Syrians."

The main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, accused the government of intentionally committing "a crime against civilization and humanity" by destroying the minaret.

"The regime has done all it can to tear apart the Syrian social fabric," the Coalition said in a statement. "By its killings and destruction of heritage, it is planting bitterness in the hearts of the people that will be

difficult to erase for a long time to come."

There were conflicting accounts about what leveled the minaret, leaving the once-soaring stone tower a pile of rubble and twisted metal scattered in the mosque's tiled courtyard. Syria's state news agency said rebels from the al-Qaida-linked Jabhat al-Nusra group blew it up, while Aleppo-based activist Mohammed al-Khatib said a Syrian army tank fired a shell that "totally destroyed" the minaret.

The mosque fell into rebel hands earlier this year after heavy fighting but the area around the compound remains contested, with Syrian troops just some 200 yards (meters) away.

An amateur video posted online by the anti-government Aleppo Media Center showed the mosque's vaulted archways charred from earlier fighting and a pile of rubble where the minaret used to be.

Standing inside the mosque courtyard, a man who appeared to be a rebel fighter, said regime forces recently fired seven shells at the minaret but failed to knock it down. On Wednesday, the tank rounds struck their target, he said.

"We were standing here today and suddenly shells started hitting the minaret," the man said. The army "then tried to storm the mosque but we pushed them back." □



This combination of images shows at left: the damaged famed 12th century Umayyad mosque without the minaret, background right corner, which was destroyed by the shelling, in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria, Wednesday April 24, 2013; and at right, a March 6, 2013 view of the mosque with its minaret still intact. (AP Photo/AMC)

Hagel: Israel did not tell him of intel on Syria

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel indicated on Wednesday that he was caught by surprise when Israeli officials publicly revealed their assessment that Syria has used chemical weapons in its civil war.

Hagel told reporters that his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Yaalon, did not alert him to the assessment when they met in Tel Aviv on Monday. The assessment was announced publicly on Tuesday by a senior official with Israel's military intelligence office.

"They did not give me that assessment; I guess it was not complete," Hagel said af-

ter several hours of meetings with senior Egyptian officials on the fourth stop of a week-long Mideast tour. "So I have not seen the specifics of it" or discussed it with Israeli officials.

He said he and Yaalon discussed the issue of Syria's chemical weapons, but Hagel would not elaborate further. The Obama administration has said Syrian government use of chemical weapons would be a "game changer," implying that it might, if confirmed, compel the U.S. to get more directly involved in the civil conflict.

Hagel said that Washington is looking for "real intelligence" on the issue of Syrian chemical weapon use.

"Suspensions are one thing. Evidence is another," he said. "I think we have to be very careful here before we make any conclusions, draw any conclusions, based on real intelligence." He said his comments should not be interpreting as questioning the validity of other countries' intelligence on Syria. The important point, he said, is that "the United States relies on its own intelligence — and must."

After his meetings in Cairo, which included talks with President Mohammed Morsi and the Egyptian defense minister, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, Hagel flew to Abu Dhabi on the Persian Gulf.

Hagel said his Cairo stop was

important for reinforcing U.S. support for the Egyptian government's transition to democracy and its efforts at economic reform.

By including Cairo on his first Mideast tour as defense secretary, Hagel was highlighting the Obama administration's hope of preserving influence with the Egyptian military as the country struggles with its transition to democracy.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel. The U.S. is deeply concerned, however, that continued instability in Egypt will have broader consequences in a region already rocked by unrest, including in the increasingly lawless Sinai Peninsula. □

Canada terror suspect grew more radical

C. NORONHA
ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — One of two men accused of plotting with al-Qaida members in Iran to derail a train in Canada became radicalized to the point that his father reached out to a Muslim support group for help and advice, a local religious leader said Wednesday.

Muhammad Robert Heft, president of the Paradise Forever Support Group Inc., a non-profit organization that provides support to Muslims in Canada, said Mohammad Jaser came to him several times citing concerns about the radicalization of his son.

"He came to me about his son saying he how concerned he was getting about the rigidity of his son and his interpretation of Islam. He was becoming self-righteous, becoming pushy, pushing his views on how much they (his family) should be practicing as a Muslim," said Heft.

Jaser's son, Raed, 35, has been charged along with Chiheb Esseghaier, 30 with conspiring to carry out an attack and murder people in association with a terrorist group in their plot to derail a train that runs between New York City and Montreal. Canadian investigators say the men received guidance from members of al-Qaida in Iran. Iranian government officials have said the government had nothing to do with the plot. "His son was becoming overzealous and intolerant in his understanding of the religion," Heft said. "Those are the telltale signs that can lead into the radicalization process."

The discussions took place between 2010 and 2011, while the father was renting a basement apartment in Heft's home in Markham, Ontario. On Wednesday, the other suspect appeared briefly in court where he made a statement suggesting he did not recognize the court's jurisdiction. □

Officials: Marathon bombs triggered by remote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bombs used in the deadly Boston Marathon attacks were triggered by a remote detonator of the kind used in remote-controlled toys, U.S. officials said Wednesday, while investigators traveled to Russia to meet with the parents of the brothers suspected in the attack.

The officials said investigators found pieces of the remote-control equipment among the debris and were analyzing them. One of the officials described the detonator as "close-controlled" — meaning it had to be triggered within several blocks of the bombs.

Both officials are close to the ongoing investigation but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

A criminal complaint outlining federal charges against the surviving bombing suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, described him as holding a cellphone in his hand minutes before the first explosion. Cellphones have been used to trigger bombings in war zones.

The older of the two brothers, 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was killed in a shootout with police last week. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev,

19, remained hospitalized and was being questioned over his role in the attacks. Two U.S. officials said Wednesday that Dzhokhar was unarmed when police captured him hiding inside a boat in a neighborhood back yard. Authorities originally said they had exchanged gunfire with the suspect for more than one

injured a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority officer. Dzhokhar was believed to have been shot before he escaped. The officials tell The Associated Press that no gun was found in the boat. Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said earlier that shots were fired from inside the boat.



Helicopters fly over law enforcement officers assembled at a memorial service for fallen Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus officer Sean Collier at MIT in Cambridge, Mass. Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Dominick Reuter)

hour Friday evening before they were able to subdue him. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation, said investigators recovered a 9 mm handgun believed to have been used by Tsarnaev's brother, Tamerlan, from the site of a gun battle Thursday night, which

U.S. officials said Dzhokhar has told interrogators he and his brother were angry about the U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Investigators traveled to the predominantly Muslim province of Dagestan in southern Russia and were in contact with the brothers' parents, hoping to learn more about their motives.

Investigators are looking into whether Tamerlan, who spent six months in Russia's turbulent Caucasus region in 2012, was influenced by the religious extremists who have waged an insurgency against Russian forces in the area for years. The brothers have roots in Dagestan and neighboring Chechnya, but had lived in the U.S. for about a decade.

Their parents, Anzor Tsarnaev and Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, plan to fly to the United States on Thursday, the father was quoted as telling the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. The family has said it wants to bring Tamerlan's body back to Russia.

Tamerlan's name was added to a U.S. government terrorism database about 18 months before the attacks, according to U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation.

In the fall of 2011, Russia contacted the CIA with concerns about Tamerlan. Two officials said the CIA added Tsarnaev's name to a terrorism database, called TIDE, that feeds into watch lists like the one used to keep terrorists off airplanes. □

GOP preparing for debt showdown in summer

S. OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Preparing for another debt showdown this summer, House Republicans advanced a bill Wednesday to protect pension recipients and investors in Treasury bonds if the government hits the limit of its borrowing authority.

Democrats call the bill the "Pay China First Act," saying it prioritizes payments to foreign investors over funding important domestic programs, including benefits for veterans, soldiers, students and the elderly.

The House Ways and Means Committee passed a bill that would exempt interest and principal pay-

ments on Treasury bonds from the statutory debt limit. It would also exempt interest payments to trust funds that finance the pension system. The bill passed 22 to 14 in a straight party line vote, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed. The full House, which is controlled by Republicans, is expected to take up the bill sometime after Congress returns from next week's vacation. Democrats, however, are expected to block the bill in the Senate. Republicans say the bill would avoid an unprecedented default, even if Congress and President Barack Obama cannot agree on a plan to increase the govern-

ment's ability to borrow. If Congress can't agree on a plan to increase the debt limit, Washington could be headed for another showdown over government spending and borrowing. In July 2011, Congress took the federal government to the brink of default, and major rating agencies downgraded the federal government's credit rating for the first time.

Since then, the issue has been politically toxic. In last year's congressional elections, both Democratic and Republican challengers gleefully reported the number of times their incumbent opponents had voted to increase the debt limit, a vote that

used to be routine. "The whole purpose of this bill is to take default off the table," said Rep. Paul Ryan, a Republican who ran for vice president in 2012. "Regardless of the political hysterics in Washington, we will not default." But Democratic Rep. Joseph Crowley asked: "Where in the bill are the benefits of veterans protected? Is there language protecting Medicare payments and seniors in this bill? Do they get top billing over foreign banks? This bill will do nothing to lower our debt but it will make sure that foreign banks in Switzerland and China are paid." Medicare is a health care plan for the elderly. □

White House says it's open to fix on FAA furloughs

Continued from front

According to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, which is privy to FAA data, there were 5,800 flight delays across the country for the three-day period beginning Sunday, when the furloughs took effect. Some were caused by weather. The union said that compares with 2,500 delays for the same period a year ago. At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney said that if Congress "wants to address specifically the problems caused by the sequester with the FAA, we would be open to looking at that. "But that would be a Band-Aid measure," he added. "And it would not deal with the many other negative effects of the sequester, the kids kicked off of Head Start, the seniors who aren't getting Meals on Wheels, and the up to three-quarter of a million

of Americans who will lose their jobs or will not have jobs created for them." Officials estimate the FAA furloughs will save slightly more than \$200 million through Sept. 30, a small fraction of the \$85 billion in overall reductions that stem from across-the-board cuts, officially known as a sequester, that took effect in March. Neither Rockefeller nor LaHood disclosed the terms of possible legislation. Other senators in recent days have proposed giving the FAA flexibility in the rules governing its spending. Under a different suggestion, funds would be shifted from a federal grant program for airport improvements into the account that pays for air traffic controller salaries. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the other top Democrats have consistently expressed opposition to piecemeal leg-



Travelers stand in line at Los Angeles International airport in Los Angeles. The FAA said that staffing cuts were causing delays averaging more than three hours for flights arriving at Los Angeles International Airport.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

islation aimed at easing the impact of the spending cuts, a position that congressional officials say reflected the administration's position. But support for that view among Senate Democrats

has eroded in recent days as airlines reported thousands of flight delays and industry executives pressed for a restoration of full funding for air traffic controllers. "I think it's better to do a big deal, but as we work

toward that big deal we have to admit that there are some things that are very problematic," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat who helped write legislation to give the FAA flexibility to switch money between accounts and permit full staffing by controllers.

At least three other Democrats support the measure, which Klobuchar cosponsored with Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota and several other GOP lawmakers. "This is a very simple bipartisan bill that fixes the problem," Hoeven said, adding he had informed the White House of his plans.

Rockefeller, who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, was joined at the meeting by Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the panel's senior Republican, as well as LaHood and Michael Huerta, the FAA administrator.

Referring to the lawmakers, LaHood said he and Huerta "offered our apologies to them for the fact that we had not kept them informed about all of the things that we had been discussing. We talked about some fixes and we'll see where it takes us."

Echoing Carney's remarks, he also said he had told Rockefeller and Thune "if there were a fix, the White House would consider it." □

Obama administration missed clues on Fisker

Continued from front

Henrik Fisker told the House panel that "cutting edge technology" developed by the Anaheim, California-based company could "pave the way for a new generation of American car manufacturing." Fisker said he is especially proud of the \$100,000 Karma hybrid, which Time Magazine called one of the 50 best inventions of 2011. Fisker has sold fewer than 2,000 Karmas, despite early projections of 11,000 sales per year. Fisker, who resigned as board chairman in March, disputed claims by some critics that the company needed the federal loan to survive. He said a high-ranking Energy Department official approached him in 2008 and asked him to apply for the loan, which is intended to boost electric cars and other advanced vehicles.

"At that time, we already had significant financial backing from private inves-

tors," Fisker said. In all, the company received more than \$1 billion in private financing, he said. Fisker denied that any political influence was used to

believe that any improper political influence was used in connection with the company's loan application or subsequent negotiations with the Department of En-

that Fisker investors include the actor Leonardo DiCaprio and John Doerr, a partner at the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins who has served on an



Fisker Automotive's 'Fisker Karma,' a sports luxury plug-in hybrid car at the 2010 Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles. Newly released documents show that the Obama administration was warned as early as 2010 that electric car maker Fisker Automotive Inc. was not meeting milestones set up for a half-billion dollar government loan, nearly a year before U.S. officials froze the loan after questions were raised about the company's statements.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

obtain the loan or in negotiations over its terms. "I am not aware and do not be-

come," Fisker said. Republicans called the claim dubious and noted

economic advisory board appointed by President Barack Obama. □

Skakel to take stand in US murder appeal

J. CHRISTOFFERSEN

Associated Press

VERNON, Connecticut (AP)

— An attorney for Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel said Wednesday he plans to call him to testify as he challenges his 2002 murder conviction on the grounds his trial attorney failed to competently defend him.

Skakel, the nephew of Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel Kennedy, is expected to testify Thursday, said his attorney, Hubert Santos. He didn't testify at his trial but spoke last year when he was denied parole.

Skakel is serving 20 years to life for the 1975 golf club bludgeoning of Martha Moxley when they were 15-year-old neighbors in wealthy Greenwich, but he maintains his innocence. He's hoping to get out of prison through a writ of habeas corpus arguing he was deprived of his constitutional right to effective legal representation when Michael Sherman was his attorney. Skakel, 52, argues Sherman got caught up in the limelight of the high-profile case and failed to prepare. Sherman has said he did all he could to prevent Skakel's conviction and has denied he was distracted by media attention.

Santos said Skakel wanted to testify at his trial. Sherman said Skakel agreed he probably shouldn't testify.

Sherman said last week that Skakel is intelligent but has a temper and he didn't want the jury to see him showing anger. Skakel's defense argues Sherman failed to obtain evidence pointing to other suspects and failed to challenge a former classmate who testified Skakel confessed to the crime when they attended a reform school in Maine in the late 1970s. They also say he failed to prepare witnesses, made inappropriate jury picks and delivered a poor closing argument. Sherman denied the claims, saying he spent substantial time preparing witnesses, believed he had destroyed the credibility of the witness who said Skakel confessed and did all he could to obtain evidence and investigate the case. □

Suspect in LA girl's abduction returned to U.S.

TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— A fugitive charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old Los Angeles girl was returned to the U.S. Wednesday after being arrested in a Mexican village where he'd checked himself into a rehabilitation facility under a fake name, authorities said.

Tobias Summers, 30, was being brought to Los Angeles to face 37 felony charges, including numerous sexual assault counts, FBI Special Agent in Charge Tim Delaney told a press conference.

Summers was a fugitive for nearly a month. Police Chief Charlie Beck credited a \$25,000 FBI reward that was highly publicized south of the border for a phone tip late Tuesday that led to Summers' arrest Wednesday morning.

"Anybody in this city who thinks they can commit that kind of crime and remain free after doing so ... we'll hunt you, we'll find you, you cannot hide," Beck said.

Mexican authorities acted on the tip received by the FBI and tracked Summers to a drug and alcohol treatment facility in a tiny village on the coast between Tijuana and Ensenada, according to Alfredo Arenas, international liaison for the Baja California

state police.

Summers checked into the facility under a false name, but police identified him from a Superman logo tattooed on his chest, Arenas said. He was arrested without a struggle.

"He was pretty scared,"

Authorities soon arrested Daniel Martinez, 29, as a suspected accomplice and later revealed that Summers had been spotted in a video recording as he crossed the border into Mexico at Tecate, east of San Diego.

lice have said, while Summers took the girl to a vacant home where he assaulted her. FBI Special Agent Scott Garriola wrote in an affidavit that the girl was taken to several locations and raped.

While he was a fugitive,



Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, left to right, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck, and FBI Special Agent in Charge Tim Delaney, are shown at a news conference Wednesday April 24, 2013 in Los Angeles. Beck announced the apprehension of the prime suspect, Tobias Dustin Summers, in the kidnapping and sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl. Summers was arrested Tuesday by Mexican police working with the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

Arenas said. "We had him in custody very fast."

The victim's parents discovered she was missing from her bedroom in her Northridge home in the early morning hours of March 27. She was found about 12 hours later wandering near a Starbucks several miles (kilometers) away.

Authorities believe Summers broke into the girl's home planning to burglarize it but instead abducted her at knifepoint.

They believe Martinez was waiting outside in a car the two used to flee with the girl.

Martinez soon abandoned the car and vanished, po-

Summers was charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors with kidnapping, burglary and nearly three dozen counts of sexual assault.

Summers was described as a transient with a criminal record including convictions for burglary and grand theft. □

US state on way to be 10th to allow gay marriage

DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)

— Rhode Island senators put their state on the path Wednesday to becoming the 10th state to allow same-sex couples to marry, passing legislation by a comfortable 26-12 margin after nearly two decades of attempts to legalize gay marriage.

The bill passed the House in January and now returns there for a largely procedural vote, likely next week, before going to Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who supports the legislation.

Hundreds of gay marriage supporters erupted into

cheers and applause — and many cried — outside the Senate chamber following the vote.

"I think it's actually going to happen," said Michael Sherman, 45, a gay man from Providence who came to the Statehouse for the historic vote. "When you tell someone they can't do something because they're different from you, people see that as just wrong. It shouldn't have taken this long."

While the other five New England states already allow gay marriage, heavily Catholic Rhode Island has been a hold-out. Supporters this year mounted

an aggressive and coordinated campaign that included organized labor, religious leaders, business owners and leaders including Chafee and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. The bill's chances improved when Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed said she would allow the bill to move forward, despite her opposition to gay marriage. Earlier this week, the Senate's five Republicans announced they would all support the measure. The first gay marriages in Rhode Island could take place Aug. 1, when the legislation would take effect. Civil unions would

no longer be available to same-sex couples as of that date, though the state would continue to recognize existing civil unions. Lawmakers approved civil unions two years ago, though few couples have sought them.

Gay marriage legislation has been introduced in Rhode Island's General Assembly for nearly 20 years only to languish on the legislative agenda without a vote. Last fall, House Speaker Gordon Fox, who is gay, vowed to hold a vote early in the session, a move that focused the attention of supporters on the Senate. □

2nd man investigated in ricin case

EMILY PETTUS

JEFF AMY

Associated Press

TUPELO, Mississippi (AP)

— A second man investigated in connection to ricin-laced letters sent to the president and a U.S. senator said Wednesday that investigators "ripped" through his house during an hourslong search the previous day after charges were dropped against another man in the case.

No charges have been filed against Everett Dutschke, and he hasn't been arrested. Both he and Paul Kevin Curtis, who had faced charges in the case, say they have no idea how to make the poisonous ricin and had nothing to do with sending the letters to President Barack Obama, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Mississippi county judge Sadie Holland.

Dutschke and Curtis know each other. Dutschke said the two had a disagreement and the last contact they had was in 2010. Dutschke said he threatened to sue Curtis for saying he was a member of Mensa, a group for people with high IQs.

Dutschke's home was searched Tuesday by dozens of officials, who declined to comment on what they had found or on the next phase of the investigation.

No investigators appeared to be at the home Wednesday morning, and Everett Dutschke said he'd gone to a friend's house to rest. Piles of items could be seen all over the floor through the window.

At one point, two FBI agents and two members of the state's chemical response team left Dutschke's property and began combing

through ditches, culverts and woods about a block away from his house in the neighborhood of single-family detached homes.

Dutschke, who spoke with The Associated Press by telephone during the search, said his house was also searched last week. He said he and his wife had gone to a friend's Wednesday because they didn't feel safe at their home.

"They ripped everything out of the house," he said Wednesday morning, adding: "I haven't slept at all." Curtis, a 45-year-old celebrity impersonator, has maintained his innocence since his arrest.

A one-sentence document filed by federal prosecutors said charges against Curtis were dropped, but left open the possibility they could be reinstated if authorities found more to prove their case. □



Everett Dutschke walks to a neighbor's house in Tupelo, Miss., as he waits for federal authorities to finish searching his home in connection with the recent ricin attacks. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

California: Educators sued over English instruction

SHAYA MOHAJER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— About 20,000 students in California who need to learn English aren't getting adequate language instruction, according to a lawsuit against the state and education workers filed Wednesday by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Under state and federal law, schools are required to teach non-English speakers the language, but by its own records, the state isn't offering English instruction to nearly 20,000 students.

The suit alleges that lack of instruction has meant some children had to be held back a grade or live with low proficiency scores because of a language barrier.

The ACLU brought the issue to the attention of the state with a letter in January, and officials say they're working to ensure compliance at the local level.

Attorney Mark Rosenbaum said in Wednesday's filing that English learners fall behind without proper language lessons, even as school districts collect

federal funds for providing such education.

Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Richard Zeiger said in a statement that the state is determined to provide English learners appropriate instruction and encouraged parents to bring problems to the state's attention.

Zeiger also noted that a recent appellate court decision found that the department was meeting its legal obligations related to on-site monitoring of English learners. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: Did the U.S. government send a representative to attend Margaret Thatcher's funeral. If so, who was it?

-- **Ann Churchman, Lilburn, Ga.**

A: James Baker and George Shultz, two former secretaries of state, led the U.S. delegation at the funeral of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher April 17. The British press stated its displeasure that the delegation didn't include a former president or a representative from President Barack Obama's administration.

Shultz was the secretary of state for President Ronald Reagan and Baker served under George H.W. Bush. The U.S. delegation also included Barbara Stephenson, charge d'affaires to Britain and Northern Ireland, and Louis Susman, former U.S. ambassador to Britain.

Q: How and why did the song "Sweet Caroline" become a fixture at Boston Red Sox games?

-- **Kathy McDonough, Peachtree Corners, Ga.**

A: A Red Sox employee whose job it was to decide the music lineup at Fenway Park heard Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" at other stadiums and put it in the musical rotation in the late 1990s. Amy Tobey began playing the song sometime between the seventh and ninth innings, but only if the Red Sox were leading and the "atmosphere is festive," Charles Steinberg, a senior adviser to Boston Red Sox President and CEO Larry Lucchino, recently told MSN.com. When new ownership took over in 2002, team officials requested that "Sweet Caroline" be played in the middle of the eighth inning at every game.

Coincidentally, Diamond, who wrote and first performed the song in 1969, revealed in 2007 that it was inspired by Caroline Kennedy, who is President John F. Kennedy's daughter, after he saw a photo of her. Caroline Kennedy also is the great-granddaughter of former Boston Mayor John Francis "Honey-Fitz" Fitzgerald.

Diamond sang and led the fans in "Sweet Caroline" at Fenway Park on Saturday, the day after Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed and his brother Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was arrested.

Q: Has the TV show "Vegas" been canceled, or will it return in the fall?

-- **Glenda Nielsen, Marietta, Ga.**

A: The show wasn't among the 18 shows that were renewed by CBS in late March, but co-star Michael Chiklis tweeted in February that he's confident "Vegas" will return. "No (it won't be canceled)," Chiklis wrote. "Vegas" is a powerful show with a huge audience that will continue to grow over time. Thanks for watching!" Ratings have been marginal for the show, which is in its first year, and CBS recently moved the final six of this year's episodes from Tuesday to Friday nights to tap into an older viewing audience. "Vegas" had 7 million viewers on April 12, but had its lowest rating of the season for the 18-49 age group.

Q: While watching the final round of the Masters, I didn't see a single umbrella with a logo on it other than the Masters logo. Does it ban the use of umbrella logos other than its own?

-- **Frank Manfre, Grayson, Ga.**

A: Patrons are allowed to bring their own umbrellas into Augusta National, a club spokesman told Q-and-A on the News in an email. □

How a phony tweet and computer trades sank stocks

**BERNARD CONDON
MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — For a few surreal minutes, a mere 12 words on Twitter caused the world's mightiest stock market to tremble.

No sooner did hackers send a false Associated Press tweet reporting explosions at the White House on Tuesday than investors started dumping stocks — eventually unloading \$134 billion worth. Turns out, some investors are not only gullible, they're impossibly fast stock traders.

Except most of the investors weren't human. They were computers, selling on autopilot beyond the control of humans, like a scene from a sci-fi horror film.

"Before you could blink, it was over," said Joe Saluzzi, co-founder of Themis Trading and an outspoken critic of high-speed computerized trading. "With people, you wouldn't have this type of reaction."

For decades, computers have been sorting through data and news to help investment funds decide whether to buy or sell. But that's old school. Now "algorithmic" trading programs sift through data, news, even tweets, and execute trades by themselves in fractions of a second, without slowpoke humans getting in the way. More than half of stock trading every day is done this way.

Markets quickly recovered after Tuesday's plunge. But the incident rattled traders and highlighted the danger of handing control to the machines. It also raised questions about whether regulators should be doing more to monitor the relationship between social media and the markets.

Irene Aldridge, a consul-

tant to hedge funds on algorithmic programs, said glitches and plunges may be inevitable with trading programs that just count the number of positive and negative words, without

from social media outlets like Twitter.

Experts say the fake tweet seemed designed to catch a computer's attention.

Rich Brown, head of Elektron Analytics, a Thomson-

a combination even the slowest computer couldn't miss.

Brown said his service doesn't include Twitter in its feeds because there's too much useless "noise" in the deluge of tweets and, given the 140-character limit to tweets, often too little context.

Before the fake tweet appeared on Tuesday, it looked like any other good day on Wall Street. Unexpectedly strong earnings reports from Netflix and DuPont sent the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index up 1 percent at 1,578 with three hours to go in the trading day.

Then, at 1:08 p.m. (1708 GMT), a tweet appeared on the hacked AP Twitter account stating that two explosions at the White House had injured President Barack Obama. Stocks immediately started falling, and kept tumbling for two minutes. AP quickly announced that its account had been hijacked and the report was false. Prices began to climb again. A group called the Syrian Electronic Army said

it was responsible for the hack. But the claim has not been corroborated. The FBI has opened an investigation into the incident, spokeswoman Jenny Shearer said.

Whoever was responsible, the damage was big. The Dow lost 143 points, or 1 percent, in two minutes. In the frenzied selling, oil prices dropped, gold rose, the dollar rallied and the price of Treasuries, seen by many investors as a hiding spot, shot higher, briefly knocking yields to their lowest level of the year.

Some Wall Street pros were surprised that a single tweet could move markets so much.

Julian Brigden, managing partner of Macro Intelligence 2 Partners, an investment consultancy, said the drop suggested an "unstable" trading environment dominated by investors too quick to buy or sell without any thought. Joe Fox, founder of online brokerage Ditto Trade, said the selling was too fast for humans to have pulled off, and computers were to blame. □



Trader Christopher Lotito, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, April 24, 2013. No sooner did a phony Associated Press report of explosions at the White House appear on Twitter on Tuesday than investors started dumping stocks, eventually unloading \$134 billion worth. Turns out, some investors are not only gullible, they're impossibly fast stock traders.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

any filter.

"You can't ban Twitter," said Aldridge, author of "High-Frequency Trading," a guide to algorithmic trading.

Just how exactly the trading unfolded Tuesday is still a bit of mystery.

Some experts say the computers took their cue from humans, picking up on a pause in buying as traders read the phony tweet. In Wall Street's insanely fast trading world, humans holding back for even a second could have signaled to computers that buyers were drying up and that prices could fall, and so the computers should sell fast.

Others, like Saluzzi, think computers may have sold on the tweet itself. That's possible because computer trading programs are increasingly written to read, and react to, news

Reuters unit that sells news feeds that computers can read, said that the words "explosions" or "Obama" alone wouldn't have triggered selling. But add "White House," and it's

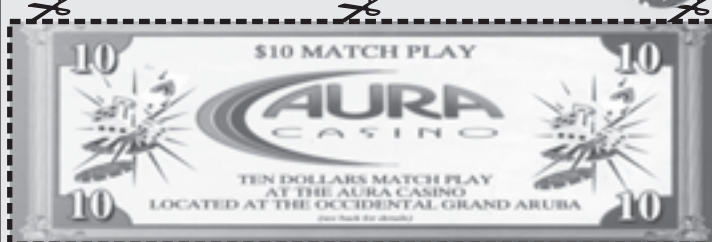
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Rescuers scramble to help in Bangladesh factory collapse

JULHAS ALAM
Associated Press

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)

— Rescuers tried to free dozens of people believed trapped in the concrete rubble after an eight-story building that housed garment factories collapsed, killing at least 87. Workers had complained about cracks in the structure before it came tumbling down, but were assured it was safe.

Searchers cut holes in the jumbled mess of concrete with drills or their bare hands, passing water and flashlights to those pinned inside the building near Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka.

"I gave them whistles, water, torchlights. I heard them cry. We can't leave them behind this way,"

said fire official Abul Khayer. Rescue operations illuminated by floodlights continued through the night.

The disaster came less than five months after a factory fire killed 112 people and underscored the unsafe conditions in Bangladesh's massive garment industry. Workers said they had hesitated to go to into the building on Wednesday morning because it had developed such large cracks a day earlier that it even drew the attention of local news channels.

Abdur Rahim, who worked on the fifth floor, said a factory manager gave assurances that there was no problem, so employees went inside.

"After about an hour or so, the building collapsed



Rescuers look for survivors in the debris of a building that collapsed in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, April 24, 2013. An eight-story building housing several garment factories collapsed near Bangladesh's capital on Wednesday, killing dozens of people and trapping many more under a jumbled mess of concrete. Rescuers tried to cut through the debris with earthmovers, drilling machines and their bare hands.

(AP Photo/A.M.Ahad)

suddenly," Rahim said. He next remembered regaining consciousness outside. On a visit to the site, Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir told reporters the building had violated construction codes and "the culprits would be punished."

Among the textile businesses in the building were Phantom Apparels Ltd., New Wave Style Ltd., New Wave Bottoms Ltd. and New Wave Brothers Ltd., which make clothing for major brands including The Children's Place, Dress Barn, and Primark.

Jane Singer, a spokeswoman for The Children's Place, said that "while one of the garment factories located in the building complex has produced apparel for The Children's Place, none of our product was in production at the time of this accident."

"Our deepest sympathies go out to the victims of this terrible tragedy and their families," Singer said in a statement.

Dress Barn said that to its knowledge, it had "not purchased any clothing from that facility since 2010. We work with suppliers around the world to manufacture our clothing, and have a supply chain transparency program to protect the rights of workers and their safety."

Primark, a major British clothing retailer, confirmed that one of the suppliers it uses to produce some of its goods was located on the second floor of the building. In a statement emailed to The Associated Press, Primark said it was "shocked and deeply saddened by the appalling incident." It added that it has been working with other retailers to review the country's approach to factory standards and will now push for this review to include building integrity.

Meanwhile, Primark's ethical trade team is working to collect information, assess which communities the workers come from, and to provide support

"where possible."

John Howe, Cato's chief financial officer and executive vice president, told The Associated Press that it didn't contract with any of the factories directly but it's currently investigating what its "ties" were.

Howe said that one of Cato's domestic importers could have used one of the factories to fulfill some of the orders the retailer had placed. It's expected to have more information by Thursday.

Spanish retailer Mango denied reports it was using any of the suppliers in the building. However, in an email statement to the AP, it said that there had been conversations with one of them to produce a batch of test products.

Kevin Gardner, a spokesman at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., the second-largest clothing producer in Bangladesh, said the company is investigating to see if a factory in the building was currently producing for the chain. □



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Iraq:

Sunni anger boiling over; sectarian fighting feared

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — With Sunni gunmen beginning to confront the Shiite-led government's security forces head-on in northern and western Iraq, fears are growing fast of a return to full-scale sectarian fighting that could plunge the country into a broader battle merged with the Syrian civil war across the border.

With more than 100 people killed over the past two days, it's shaping up to be the most pivotal moment for Iraq since U.S. combat troops withdrew in December 2011.

"Everybody has the feeling that Iraq is becoming a new Syria," Talal Younis, the 55-year-old owner of a currency exchange in the northern city of Mosul, said Wednesday. "We are heading into the unknown."

... I think that civil war is making a comeback."

A crackdown by government forces at a protest site in the northern town of Hawija on Tuesday triggered the latest unrest. It has enraged much of the country's restive Sunni Arab minority, adding fuel to an already smoldering opposition movement and spawning a wave of bold follow-up clashes.

It is too soon to say whether the rage will lead to widespread insurrection in the largely Sunni cities of Mosul and Ramadi or, more significantly, spiral into open sectarian warfare in the streets of Baghdad.

The Iraqi capital is far more tightly controlled by security forces than the remote towns hit by the latest unrest, but insurgents continue to launch regular, well-coordinated waves of attacks inside Baghdad.

Outright threats that all but disappeared as the last bout of sectarian fighting waned in 2008 are making a comeback too, like the

of the Hawija bloodshed remain murky, but there is outrage over the government's handling of the unrest and the fact that

week's events as a pivotal moment for the country.

"The crime in Hawija clearly shows that people have lost faith in their armed forces, which have been turned into a tool in the hands of the prime minister," he said. "Some people now think that the only way to protect themselves is to take up arms."

The raid in Hawija sparked clashes and a spate of other attacks, mostly targeting Sunni mosques, that killed at least 56 people on Tuesday. Raids by Sunni gunmen on army checkpoints broke out in the hours following the protest camp raid and continued into Wednesday. In the most dramatic incident, armed tribesmen sealed off approaches to the Sunni town of Qara Tappah, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) northeast of Baghdad. When Iraqi troops backed by helicopters arrived to try to clear the makeshift roadblocks, fierce clashes erupted. Police say 15 gunmen and seven soldiers were killed. Sunni tribesmen also battled soldiers throughout Wednesday in the town of Suleiman Beg, about 150 kilometers (95 miles) north of Baghdad.



Iraqi army soldiers drive out of Hawija, of Baghdad, Iraq. Iraqi security forces backed by helicopters raided a Sunni protest camp this week, prompting clashes that killed scores of people in the area and significantly intensified Sunni anger against the Shiite-led government.
(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

leaflets signed by a Shiite militant group that began turning up on the doorsteps of Sunni households in Baghdad earlier this year. The exact circumstances

most of the 23 killed at the site were among the Sunni demonstrators.

Talal al-Zobaie, a Sunni lawmaker from the opposition Iraqiya bloc, described this

UN warns of 'troubling rise' in Afghan violence

PATRICK QUINN
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.N. envoy to Afghanistan said civilian casualties rose nearly 30 percent in the first three months of the year, calling it a "troubling rise" in violence.

The U.S.-led NATO force said Wednesday that Afghan and coalition forces killed 13 insurgents in joint operations that began a day earlier in eastern Kapisa and Nangarhar provinces close to where the Taliban are thought to have kidnapped a group of foreign civilians.

The Afghan government said it was trying to win the release of eight Turks, an Afghan translator and two pilots — one from Russia and the other from Kyrgyzstan — who were kidnapped after their helicopter made an emergency landing in bad weather last Sunday in eastern Logar province — adjacent to Nangarhar. "It's a very serious issue. We are following that issue very closely through our police organizations in Logar province, with the governor's office and with

local elders in that particular area,"

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said Wednesday.

"That's the priority, not only for the Afghan police but for the Afghan security forces as a whole and for the governor of Logar province."

He added that the Afghan government was doing all it could to make sure the hostages were safe and that a proper way to seek their release is found. "If it is through local elders, if it's through any councils — whatever it takes," he said. Taliban spokesman Zabullah Mujahid told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the captives were safe and in "good health," but denied reports that negotiations are underway for their release.

Afghanistan has seen heavy fighting in recent weeks as warmer, spring-time weather allows insurgents to move more freely. Following the winter, militants are able to infiltrate Afghanistan from mountain passes that connect to neighboring Pakistan

where they have sanctuaries.

The Taliban have increasingly targeted Afghan government officials in recent attacks, including an April 3 assault on a courthouse and government offices in western Farah province. Forty-six people were killed, including two judges, six prosecutors, administration officers and cleaners working at the site.

The U.N. said violence increased by 30 percent in the first three months of the year and called on the Taliban to stop targeting civilians and using children in suicide attacks.

"Following a 12 percent decline in civilian casualties in 2012, the first three months of 2013 saw a troubling rise," Jan Kubis, the head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, told a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels. "Compared to the same quarter in 2012, we assess that civilian casualties were up by almost 30 percent with 475 civilians killed and 872 injured."

He described the Farah attack as "nothing less than

a war crime," and said a Taliban decision to target government officials and people working for the administration of President Hamid Karzai or the U.S.-led coalition "are of extreme concern."

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New recession may be confirmed in UK

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Recession may just be a word. But in Britain it may become a habit — and a dangerous one at that.

It's possible that official figures on first quarter economic growth, to be released Thursday, could show the country is back in recession, and tension is building.

Although economists on average expect growth of 0.1 percent on the quarter, they warn it would take the smallest statistical variation to put the figure in negative territory. That would place the country in recession, typically defined as two consecutive quarters of economic contraction. Another recession — the third since the 2008 financial crisis — is already being referred to with foreboding in the media as a "Triple Dip." Experts warn that its confirmation would create a wave of negative media attention that would scare consumers away from spending, feeding into a vicious cycle that has the economy flat-lining.

"It's psychological — this is all psychological," said Cary Cooper, a professor at Lancaster University Management School. "It's about the message that those figures send to consumers and small businesses."

The government desperately wants a strong number to justify its increasingly criticized policy of painful spending cuts. But recent indicators on Britain's economy, the third-largest in the 27-country EU after Germany and France, have been disappointing. Inflation is rising faster than wages, cutting into peo-

ple's standard of living. Unemployment is up at 7.9 percent. Two international ratings agencies have downgraded the country's credit grade from the top level AAA, warning about the government's fiscal policies. The government, which has long played on its AAA rating as a sign of

realizing, however, is that they may have underestimated the damage such austerity would do. There's long been pressure domestically in Britain to ease off the budget cuts, but in the past few days the International Monetary Fund also chimed in. The fund, whose views carry

ing in the world of money because in a previous life he served as an oil industry executive and now sits on the parliamentary banking standards committee. He told an audience at the heart of government in Westminster on Monday that there was an issue of confidence and trust —



Volunteer Margaret Tobin checks items off a list of food to give out at a food bank in St Luke's Church in the West Norwood area of London. It's possible that official figures on first quarter economic growth, to be released Thursday, April 24, 2013, could put the country back in recession.
(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

its economic might, has been pursuing a harsh program of spending cuts and tax increases to reduce the budget deficit, which at 7.4 percent of annual economic output is more than twice the EU's 3 percent limit. Like many governments across Europe that have been scarred by the bond market turmoil that forced Greece and four other countries to need rescue loans, Britain is focusing on reducing debt quickly, even at the cost of short-term economic pain. What some governments and economists are slowly

weight as it is involved in all of Europe's sovereign bailout programs, has pressured Treasury chief George Osborne to slow down the austerity measures in hopes of reviving the economy, whose output was worth 1.4 trillion pounds (\$2.1 trillion) in 2012. As the austerity debate rages on, no other person than the national spiritual leader — the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby — has waded in and used a word no one wants to hear: Depression. Welby has unusual stand-

and there is need to rebuild both.

"I would argue that what we are in at the moment is not a recession, but essentially some kind of depression and it therefore takes something very, very major to get out of it in the same way as it took something major for us to get into it," he said.

The Bank of England has cut its interest rate to a record low 0.5 percent and pumped money into the financial system in the hope that will encourage banks to lend money more cheaply. □

WHO: New flu passes more easily from bird to human

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A new strain of bird flu that emerged in China over the past month is one of the "most lethal" flu viruses so far, worrying health officials because it can jump more easily from birds to humans than the one that started killing people a decade ago, World Health Organization officials said Wednesday. Scientists are watching the virus closely to see if it could spark a global pandemic but say there is little evidence so far that it can spread easily from human to human.

WHO's top influenza expert, Dr. Keiji Fukuda, told reporters at a briefing in Beijing that people seem to catch the H7N9 virus from birds more easily than the H5N1 strain that began ravaging poultry across Asia in 2003. The H5N1 strain has since killed 360 people worldwide, mostly after contact with infected fowl.

Health experts are concerned about H7N9's ability to jump to humans, and about the strain's capacity to infect birds without causing noticeable symptoms, which makes it difficult to monitor its spread. "This is definitely one of the most lethal influenza viruses we have seen so far," Fukuda said. But he added that experts are still trying to understand the virus, and that there might be a large number of mild infections that are going undetected. □

Venezuela wrestles over truth of bombing claims

**M. WEISSENSTEIN
VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela**

(AP) — Hours after barely winning Venezuela's presidential election, the ruling party started to flood state media with accusations that opposition provocateurs were firebombing Cuban-run neighborhood health clinics across the country in revenge.

More than a week later, a national dispute is raging as the opposition wages a remarkably successful media counteroffensive showing the claims to be seriously exaggerated and in some cases entirely false. With meticulously dated amateur photos of undamaged clinics, opposition supporters have vividly illustrated how cellphone cameras, Twitter and Facebook can help even the playing field against a government that came to dominate broadcast media during the late Hugo Chavez's 14-year presidency.

The fight is fueling tension in a country that's deeply polarized and almost exactly divided between supporters of the government and an opposition that claims the April 14 election was stolen. The chief of national prisons, Iris Varela, declared Tuesday that she was preparing a cell for opposition candidate Henrique Capriles for allegedly directing the purported clinic attacks and other violence against government buildings and supporters.

Chavez had a history of making claims he never substantiated, denouncing dozens of alleged assassination plots before succumbing to cancer in March. His heir, Nicolas Maduro, has shown himself prone to even more grave accusations, including repeatedly claiming in the week before his election that Salvadoran and Colombian mercenaries had entered Venezuela to wreak havoc. The government hasn't presented any evidence to back up those claims.

Tinedo Guia, president of

Venezuela's largest journalists association, said the government does not appear to fully grasp that people distrustful of state-controlled media can increasingly rely on Internet-driven grassroots reporting. Internet use in Venezuela soared from 4.6 percent of the population in 2001 to 40.2 percent in 2011, according to the World Bank. Mobile phone subscriptions more than doubled from 47 per 100 people to 98 per 100 between 2005 and 2010, and the number of mobile phones with Internet access plans grew from less than 1 per 100 people to more than 25 per 100 people over the same period.

"It's evident they are mistaken in thinking the people are stupid," Guia said of the government.

Health ministry officials did not respond to requests for comment but other government ministers have alleged the clinics were repaired faster than the damage could be documented. Some accused skeptics of questioning the government's claims simply because they opposed the ruling Chavista movement. Information Minister Ernesto Villegas wrote last week on Twitter that "the media and non-governmental organizations are uniting in complicity with the attacks on doctors and patients." On April 16, two days after the election, Maduro announced that an unspecified number of Comprehensive Diagnostic Medical Centers had been burned by thugs operating on direct orders from Capriles. Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said eight clinics had been attacked. The number grew in subsequent accountings by government officials, with then-Health Minister Eugenia Sader saying by Saturday that 25 clinics had been burned. She was replaced in a Cabinet shuffle this week.

But no sooner had the first accusations been made than Capriles supporters rushed to at least five of the clinics and took pho-

tos of their undamaged facades. Amateur photographers were careful to hold up editions of that

attacks. Then they posted the photographs on Twitter and Facebook. The images spread quickly and

in political satire, Chiguire Bipolar, posted an article headlined "Maduro denounces the opposition's



Iris Varela, Venezuela's Minister of Prisons, right, speaks to Wilmer Apostol, Venezuela's Director of Prisons, during a news conference at La Planta prison in Caracas, Venezuela. Varela, declared Tuesday, April 23, 2013 that she was preparing a cell for opposition candidate Henrique Capriles for allegedly directing the purported clinic attacks and other violence against government buildings and supporters.
(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

morning's newspaper so there would be no doubt the images were captured after the purported

were published in opposition newspapers such as El Nacional and El Universal. A website that specializes

burning, repair, painting and resupplying of 11 Comprehensive Diagnostic Medical Centers." □

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Bahamas:

Work permit crackdown angers big resort

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A crackdown in the Bahamas on foreign workers with expired work permits is coming in for renewed criticism after a U.S. citizen who works at a local resort was briefly detained by immigration authorities. The woman works as a sea lion trainer at the Atlantis

Resort, the largest private employer in the Bahamas. Agents took her away for questioning Tuesday as she led a sea lion exhibition for tourists. Atlantis managing director George Markantonis said Wednesday that he was "extremely upset" about what happened and com-

plained to the government. Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell later expressed regret over the incident and said it had been resolved. The government has angered private employers by delaying new permits for foreign workers to encourage the hiring of Bahamians. □

Argentine Congress aims to 'democratize' courts

MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's congress was hotly debating major changes to the country's justice system on Wednesday. President Cristina Fernandez said the laws her allies are pushing through Congress will finally make the nation's courts more democratic and responsive to the will of the people. Her opponents see it as a thinly disguised effort to become all-powerful that will effectively end the separation

Congress, predicting the end of Argentina's democracy. Judicial workers went on strike nationwide. Criticism also rained in from overseas, as press freedom and human rights groups warned that free speech and the right to challenge government policies will be weakened if her majorities in both houses insist on approving the changes. "This reform would give Argentina's ruling party an automatic majority on the council that oversees the judiciary, which seriously compromises judi-

tions. An injunction against an anti-monopoly law protected the opposition Grupo Clarin media group for more than three years. — Expand and popularly elect most of the magistrate's council, and make it so judges with lifetime appointments can be disciplined with a majority vote, rather than two-thirds. — Create appellate courts to handle civil, administrative, labor and social security cases. Currently, all but criminal cases are appealed directly to Argen-



A man wearing a mask on his head takes a picture of the Congress as he protests the comprehensive judicial reform proposed by President Cristina Fernandez in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

of powers in Argentina. While lawmakers shouted at each other in the Senate and House of Deputies throughout Wednesday's long debate, a crowd of politicians, civil organizations, unions and other groups gathered outside

cial independence," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, the Americas director at Human Rights Watch in Washington. The changes would, among other things: — End indefinite injunctions against government ac-

tion's Supreme Court. — Require executive, legislative and judicial authorities to publish their tax declarations online. Fernandez says this will increase transparency and show whose interests are protected by judges. □



Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Association of Caribbean States Commences in Haiti

PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI (April 24th, 2013) — The Fifth Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was officially inaugurated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, the Honourable Pierre Richard Casimir, at the Karibe Hotel and Convention Centre, Pétion-Ville, Haiti. Minister Casimir delivered opening remarks to the gathering, comprising Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as delegations from Founding Organizations of the ACS. In his speech, he cited that the Summit, the first to be hosted by the Republic of Haiti, is essential in strengthening the regional cooperation relationship, providing a platform for the discussion and implementation of developmental policies and strategies "... to the benefit of all Member States, our peoples and our area." He alluded to the fact that despite diversity in language, culture and tradition, the Member Countries of the Wider Caribbean region were bound by a shared common objective — i.e. the development of the region, more specifically in the priority areas such as trade, transport, sustainable tourism and disaster risk reduction. Secretary General of the ACS, H.E. Ambassador Alfonso Múnera and President of the Ministerial Council, H.E. José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Minis-

ter of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States, were among those key figures to also address the Meeting during the opening ceremony. Drawing from the theme of the V Summit, Secretary General Alfonso Múnera expressed in his opening remarks that countries have gathered at the Summit "with the firm conviction that it is worth revitalizing the ACS to serve its purpose as a fortifying agent of the Wider Caribbean in the thematic areas of the Association." For his part, H.E. José Antonio Meade Kuribreña stressed the importance of the meeting with the aim of defining a clear vision between the Caribbean and Latin America. He further emphasized that "the revitalization and the desired union for the Association is reflected in the Declaration of Pétion-Ville and the Plan of Action of the ACS." Themed "Revitalizing the Vision of the Association of Caribbean States for a Stronger and More United Greater Caribbean," the Summit is scheduled to conclude this week on the 26th April. It is expected that after having discussed and drafted the Declaration of Pétion-Ville and the Plan of Action, Heads of State and Government will sign and adopt both documents which is another stride towards regional integration and functional cooperation in the Wider Caribbean. □



Solar Park groundbreaking at Reina Beatrix International Airport

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA—ELMAR, the electric company of Aruba, held a groundbreaking ceremony for a Solar Park at Reina Beatrix International Airport. This project begins Aruba's move into the world of alternative and renewable energy sources and slowly starts to wean the island's

dependence off fossil fuels and petroleum. The solar facility will be built over the parking lot and will be one of the largest in the Caribbean. The park serves as a reminder about the world energy and global warming crises - for tourist - seeing the panels as they touch



down, and for locals - who pass the airport or use the parking facilities. Minister of Finances Mike de Meza added "the moment tourists arrive on the island, the first thing they will see is our solar park giving all indications we are busy moving in the direction of a sustainable energy future." ELMAR is working hard to complete this by the end of 2013, according to Wanda Broeksma, spokesperson for the project. There will be 14,000 solar panels with each producing an estimated 250 watts per panel, which is roughly the energy need to run 3,000 houses. By all indications the current produced at the solar park will be filtered into ELMAR's energy grid thus producing energy for every house on the island. The goal is reach 50% alternative energy consumption, this includes the windmill farm at Vader Piet producing another 15% of the island's alternative energy. □



Another wonderful eatery in Aruba:

The Blue Lobster: Different, relaxing and fantastic!

PALM BEACH - Most of us go around looking for fancy decoration, chandeliers, high ceilings and Luis XVII furniture while served dinner... and fortunately for us there are plenty places like that which fits such description here in Aruba. But getting warm and friendly professional service at an eatery that offers nice Caribbean decoration and superb food quality at very reasonable



the Caribbean décor, the historical Aruban pictures decorating the walls of this cozy and romantic little place; these are some of the reasons you get the best ambiance for dining. Also enjoy great piano performances by Richard Clayderman and many others, bringing out the best memories in your life while sipping a glass of your preferred wine. All of this is what interna-



prices, there are not many places that offer all this under one roof.

We know about only one place here in Aruba that offers that and much more:

The Blue Lobster Restaurant, which displays over 25 lobster dishes on the same menu, and a great variety of other seafood dishes making The Blue Lobster

Restaurant the Lobster Mecca in Aruba! Thousands of tourists and locals have visited this great restaurant in the first year and a half that it has



tional organizations like Trip Advisor, The Ten Best, as well as thousands of other patrons have enjoyed at this wonderful Restaurant in Palm Beach.

There are other reasons for the growing popularity and the growing list of repeat visitors... The Blue lobster never forgets that good food does not need to be expensive... just ask around and confirm that a real 3 course dinner including lobster and wine, will not go for less than \$50-\$60 per person, but not at The Blue Lobster, where it doesn't even get to \$40! In conclusion, at the Blue Lobster Restaurant, you can have the cake and eat it too! Lobster Tails, Garlic Shrimps, Lobster Chimichurri, Lobster Linguini are only some of the wonderful dishes you can get included in this special. Of course if you prefer meat, you can have a nice 16Oz T-bone steak instead. So it is nice, it is friendly, it is relaxing, serves great food and it is affordable.

That is what patrons are saying about The Blue Lobster Restaurant. The newest Lobster House of Aruba.□

been in operation. It is time to join the long list of repeat visitors who have been there over 3 times during one vacation! Or perhaps be in the list of those who arrive in Aruba and go to eat there even before checking in at their hotel. Or it is possible that to have heard about this great restaurant The Blue Lobster even before arriving on this beautiful island... do not be surprised... Trip Advisor has already granted a Certificate Of Excellence for 2012, and locally the restaurant has been nominated to be "The Best Lobster House On Aruba." But it is not just because of the excellent food quality being served there... the friendly and attentive staff,

Beauty On The Beach

Tendresse Fritsch

She is from Hengelo, Holland. This is her first time in Aruba, she is staying with locals for one month. She loves the Beach.

WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

The Blue Lobster
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE
Phone: 586-3843

Playa Linda plays a part in ISA fundraising

PALM BEACH – Playa Linda Beach Resort proudly pledged its support for a new International School of Aruba (ISA) Arts Complex by providing requested t-shirts which will be used during an upcoming ISA fundraising event.

The “Rock for the Arts” event, hosted at the Hard Rock Café on May 4th, will feature a rock concert-like atmosphere, complete with “concert” t-shirts, photo opportunities, VIP passes and live music.

The event is intended to raise funds for the construction of a building which will house an “enhanced program in the Visual Arts, Performing Arts and World Language Arts”. ISA further describes the effort as “part of our mission to foster community both within and outside the school student body”.

In making its contribution to the ISA, Playa Linda Beach Resort hopes to further encourage other organizations to lend its support to the fundraising effort. The general public is also invited to participate with its attendance at what promises to be an entertaining “Rock for the Arts” at the Hard Rock Café on May 4th.



In the photo, Playa Linda Human Resource Manager Sulaiika Kelly, r, and Activities Manager Mignon

Aal, second from l, together with Hard Rock Café Sales & Marketing Manager Sharmaine Tromp,

l, present donated t-shirts to ISA Head of School Sarah R. Putnam. □

BONUS



THURSDAY!

Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!

\$6 for 4-Card BINGO! • 8 games to play!

\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!



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Go Karting in Aruba at Bushiri Karting Speedway!

EAGLE - Do you feel the need for speed in Aruba? You have to visit Bushiri Karting Speedway for the thrill of your life on a professional outdoor karting track driving in high speed rental go karts! Have fun on your vacation with your friends & family, enjoy a good race, get your lap time results, and after the race enjoy some good food and cold drinks at our Sports Bar. Bushiri Karting Speed-



way & Fuel Sports Bar & Grill – 6:30 pm. Great fun with friends and family at an affordable price, no reservations needed, just arrive and drive any time of day. We have a total of 13 Rental

Karts, 7 Adult Karts of 270cc 9 Horse Power Honda Engine that can reach up to 50 mph on our 0.8 professional Outdoor Track. We also have 6 Junior Karts of 160cc 6 Horse Power Honda Engine with Adjustable Seats & Paddles, age for riding the junior karts is 7 till 12 years and for the adult karts is 13 years & up. We will see you here at Bushiri Karting Speedway & Fuel Sports Bar & Grill, the place for Racing & Fun here in Aruba! ☐

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: “from the pier to your plate!”



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words “fresh seafood” really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called “Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Cavs re-hire Mike Brown as coach

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers re-hired Mike Brown on Wednesday, the most successful coach they've ever had.

Brown guided them to five straight playoff appearances and their only trip to the NBA Finals before he was fired following the 2010 season.

The deal brings in the 43-year-old to coach a young team with an All-Star player and plenty of room for improvement — a similar situation to the one Brown inherited in 2005.

Brown is again working for owner Dan Gilbert, who fired him following the 2010 playoffs mostly to try and please LeBron James and keep him from leaving Cleveland as a free agent. James ended up bolting for Miami anyway, foiling Gilbert's plan and leaving them without a coach whose .65 winning percentage is the sixth highest in league history among coaches with at least 400 games.

Brown's return has prompted a mixed reaction from Cleveland fans, some wondering why Gilbert would bring back a coach who couldn't win it all with James.

Continued on Page 19

MO 'EM DOWN



Mariano Rivera records sixth save

New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera, left, shakes hands with catcher Chris Stewart after closing out the Tampa Bay Rays during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Yankees won the game 4-3.

Associated Press
Page 20

Woods takes a pass on Quail Hollow

Tiger Woods tips his cap after putting out on the 18th hole during the fourth round of the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.
Associated Press



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Tiger Woods is sticking to his long break after the Masters, meaning he will miss the Wells Fargo Championship next week. Asked about Woods not playing Quail Hollow this year, agent Mark Steinberg replied in an email, "Accurate." Woods typically takes three weeks off after the year's first major. Because of a change in scheduling this year, the

Wells Fargo Championship is only two weeks after the Masters. Woods won at Quail Hollow in 2007. He has missed the cut the last two times he played, in 2010 and 2012. He missed in 2011 trying to recover from leg injuries. Before the two missed cuts, his worst finish had been a tie for 11th. The Wells Fargo Championship still has a strong field, featuring Rory McIlroy and Phil Mickelson. □

Klinsmann says Landon Donovan has work to do

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP)

— U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann is monitoring Landon Donovan and says the midfielder has work to do to earn back his spot in the national team.

A member of the last three American World Cup squads, the 31-year-old Donovan returned for the Los Angeles Galaxy on March 30 following a sabbatical of nearly four months. The U.S. has friendlies against Belgium on May 29 and Germany on June 2 ahead of three World Cup qualifiers against Jamaica and Honduras from June 7-18.

Klinsmann said Wednesday "there are players clearly ahead of Landon Donovan right now."

Klinsmann left open the



possibility that midfielder Stuart Holden could make the Americans' CONCACAF Gold Cup squad. Holden returned in February following a knee injury that limited him to one game in nearly two years. □

United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann shouts instructions to his players during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match against Mexico at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 26, 2013.
Associated Press

Meersman wins Tour of Romandie stage; Froome leads

RENENS, Switzerland (AP)

— Gianni Meersman of Belgium extended his good early season form Wednesday to win a bunch sprint at the Tour of Romandie, while Britain's Chris Froome retained the overall lead. Meersman, who won two Tour of Catalonia stages last month, edged RadioShack Leopard rider Giacomo Nizzolo of Italy in four hours, 29 minutes and 9 seconds. Another Italian, Roberto Ferrari from Lampre-Merida, was third. Mark Cavendish, Meersman's Omega Pharma-Quick Step teammate, had mechanical problems midway through the 176.4-kilometer (109.6-mile) stage and didn't figure in the finish.

Froome, the Sky leader who won the opening prologue Tuesday, retained his six-second overall advantage from Andrew Talansky of the United States.

Sprinters are favored on Thursday's 190.3-kilometer (118.15-mile) stage from



Belgian cyclist Gianni Meersman of the Omega Pharma-Quick Step raises his arms after crossing the finish line to win the first stage ahead of second placed Italian Giacomo Nizzolo, left, of team Radioshack Leopard-Trek during the first stage, a 176.4 km race from Saint-Maurice to Renens, at the 67th Tour de Romandie UCI ProTour cycling race in Renens, Switzerland, Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

Associated Press

Prilly to Granges. The six-day race through

French-speaking regions of Switzerland ends Sunday. □

Nadal eases past Berlocq to advance at Barcelona



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Carlos Berlocq, from Argentina, during the Barcelona open tennis in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Nadal won 6-4, 6-2.

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Defending champion Rafael Nadal eased his way to the third round of the Barcelona Open with a 6-4, 6-2 win against Carlos Berlocq of Argentina on Wednesday.

Nadal, who lost in the final at Monte Carlo to Novak Djokovic, said, "right now, I think things are going well." The world No. 5 has reached five consecutive finals since returning in February from a knee injury

and said "after everything that has happened, simply to be competing in these tournaments makes me happy."

Russian qualifier Dmitry Turunov stunned the crowd by defeating four-time runner-up David Ferrer in three sets.

Ferrer, who was top-seeded here for the first time in his career, crashed out 7-5, 3-6, 6-1.

Ferrer said he "did not feel well on the court today." □

Knicks, Heat win to take playoff leads

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points, Sixth Man of the Year J.R. Smith added 19 as New York opened a 2-0 lead over Boston with an 87-71 victory Tuesday.

Raymond Felton added 16 points for the Knicks, who used a 27-4 run spanning halftime to blow it open and move halfway to their first series victory since the 2000 Eastern Conference semifinals. This is their first 2-0 lead since sweeping Toronto in the first round that year. Paul Pierce scored 18 points for the Celtics, who will host Game 3 on Friday in their first home game since the Boston Marathon bombings.

Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 11 rebounds, but battled foul trouble for Boston. Anthony followed his 36-point opener by making 8 of 13 shots in the second half to finish 11 of 24 for the game.

HEAT 98, BUCKS 86

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and LeBron James finished with 19 as Miami took off in the fourth quarter to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

Chris Bosh, Shane Battier and Chris Andersen all scored 10 points for the Heat.

Game 3 is Thursday in Milwaukee.

The Heat scored the first 12 points of the fourth quarter, needing just over 2 minutes to blow open what had been a three-point game. Ersan Ilyasova scored 21 points for Milwaukee, which got 16 from Mike Dunleavy and 14 from Larry Sanders. The Bucks' starting guards, Brandon Jennings and Monta Ellis, combined for only 15 points after scoring 48 in Game 1.

WARRIORS 131, NUGGETS 117

DENVER (AP) — Stephen Curry had 30 points and 13 assists as Golden State handed Denver its first loss at home in more than three months, a stunner that evened their playoff series at a game each.

Jarrett Jack added 26 points, Harrison Barnes 24 and Klay Thompson 21 as the sixth-seeded Warriors wrested homecourt advantage from the NBA's best home team as the series shifts to Oakland for Game 3 Friday night. □



New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) celebrates with guard J.R. Smith (8) in the second half of Game 2 of their first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Boston Celtics in New York, Tuesday, April 23, 2013. The Knicks won 87-71.

Associated Press

Mike Brown

Continued from Page 17

Gilbert went on Twitter to defend his decision. He pointed out that Brown and Phil Jackson are the only coaches with more than five years of experience to never miss the playoffs in their careers.

Gilbert also noted that at 43, Brown "is not even near his peak as an NBA coach."

"Not 'selling' boys and girls," the billionaire owner wrote. "Just providing facts. You decide. Let's see how things roll next year and beyond. How many days until opening tip?"

Of course, Brown's return raises more speculation about what impact that could have on the possibility of James one day playing for the Cavs again.

James can opt out of his contract with Miami next year and the three-time league MVP has said he could imagine playing for Cleveland again.

On Wednesday, James said he was pleased Brown was back with the Cavs.

"I'm happy for him," James said. "Very happy for him. I think he's a really good coach, very defensive-minded coach. It'll be good for those young guys that they have."

Brown will replace Byron Scott, the man who replaced him three years ago. Scott was fired last week by Gilbert following his third straight losing season, one of injuries, blown leads and long losing streaks. □



In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers coach Mike Brown screams at his team in the third quarter of Game 2 against the Boston Celtics in the second round of an NBA basketball playoff series in Cleveland.

Associated Press

AL Capsules

Ichiro hits 2-run single in 9th as Yanks top Rays

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Ichiro Suzuki hit a go-ahead two-run single in the ninth inning as the New York Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 Tuesday night.

Robinson Cano ended AL Cy Young Award winner David Price's night with a leadoff single in the ninth. Tampa Bay is winless in all five of Price's starts this year. The left-hander (0-2) allowed three runs and eight hits over eight-plus innings.

After Cano stole second on a pitch by Fernando Rodney that struck out Vernon Wells, pinch-hitter Travis Hafner was intentionally walked and Lyle Overbay walked to load the bases. First baseman James Loney helped Rodney by making a sliding catch on Chris Stewart's foul ball, but Suzuki then drove in two for a 4-2 lead on a liner to center.

David Robertson (1-0) worked a perfect eighth before Mariano Rivera got his sixth save despite allowing Evan Longoria's leadoff homer.

The only other team to lose the first five starts made by a reigning Cy Young winner was the 1989 Minnesota Twins. They lost in Frank Viola's first seven starts before finally winning on May 9.

ORIOLES 4, BLUE JAYS 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Manny Machado had two hits and



New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki, of Japan, follows through on his ninth-inning, two run single off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Fernando Rodney during a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Yankees' Robinson Cano and Travis Hafner scored on the hit.

Associated Press

two RBIs, and Baltimore used a four-run second inning to beat R.A. Dickey and Toronto.

Miguel Gonzalez (2-1) allowed three runs in six innings for the Orioles, who have won nine of 13. By taking the first two games of the three-game set, Baltimore improved to 5-2 in

seven series.

It was the 100th consecutive game the Orioles have won when leading after seven innings, a streak that began in August 2011. Baltimore is 4-3 in one-run games after starting 0-3.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer for the last-place Blue Jays, who

have dropped six of eight. Dickey (2-3) gave up four runs, six hits and five walks in six innings.

ATHLETICS 13, RED SOX 0, 7 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP) — Bartolo Colon allowed three hits and Oakland capitalized on eight walks, two balks and two errors to beat Boston in a rain-shortened game.

The A's broke a scoreless tie with six runs in the third when Seth Smith hit a two-run homer, then added two in the fourth, four in the fifth and one in the sixth to snap a four-game skid.

Colon (3-0) pitched all seven innings and had little trouble in the light-to-medium rain that fell throughout the game. He struck out seven and issued his first walk this season in 25 innings to Jacoby Ellsbury leading off the sixth.

Alfredo Aceves (1-1) allowed seven earned runs in 3 1-3 innings for Boston.

TWINS 4, MARLINS 3, GAME 1

MARLINS 8, TWINS 5, GAME 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Oswaldo Arcia hit his first career home run and Kevin Correia gave up two runs in seven innings, leading Minnesota over Miami in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

The Marlins' offense finally showed some life in the nightcap with an 8-5 victory. Arcia's three-run homer in the fourth backed Cor-

reia (2-1), who allowed five hits and struck out five in the opener. The Twins shrugged off yet another chilly day to win their fifth straight. Brian Dozier had three hits, and Glen Perkins got his sixth save.

Jose Fernandez (0-2) gave up four runs and six hits for the Marlins, who are off to a franchise-worst 5-16 start after an offseason salary purge. Joe Mahoney had two hits and two RBIs for Miami.

In the second game, Rob Brantly had three hits and a career-high four RBIs for Miami.

Brantly had two doubles and Ricky Nolasco (1-2) allowed two earned runs on six hits in five innings for the Marlins, who won for just the fifth time this season. Miami had a season-high 16 hits, including a double, a single and two RBIs from struggling slugger Giancarlo Stanton. Steve Cishek got his second save.

Joe Mauer had two hits and an RBI, while Mike Pelfrey (2-2) had another rough outing, giving up five runs on nine hits in 4 2-3 innings as the Twins lost for the first time in six games.

In other AL games it was Minnesota 4, Miami 3, 1st game; Oakland 13, Boston 0, 7 innings; Baltimore 4, Toronto 3; N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3; Miami 8, Minnesota 5, 2nd game; Houston 3, Seattle 2; and L.A. Angels 5, Texas 4, 11 innings. □



Police and National Guard soldiers stand outside Fenway Park before a baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Kansas City Royals in Boston, Saturday, April 20, 2013.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stadium operations officials from the 30 Major League Base-

ball teams will meet this week and are expected to discuss whether to make

MLB likely to discuss security after bombings

any security changes in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings. MLB said the meeting Thursday in New York was planned before the attacks last week.

"This stadium operations meeting scheduled for later this week was not a product of the incidents in Boston," MLB spokesman Michael Teevan said Tuesday. "It is a part of our ongoing efforts to discuss

state-of-the-art security measures with the clubs, and it's standard operating procedure."

Among the security topics that could be discussed are backpacks that fans bring into ballparks.

Each team has different policies for fans, although the general major league limitation on bag sizes is 16 inches by 16 inches by 8 inches. Teams might talk about whether they want

to cut that down from the size of a standard school backpack to something such as a laptop carrying bag. At Yankee Stadium, "briefcases, coolers and other hard-sided bags or containers are not permitted." At Kansas City's Kauffman Stadium, wrapped presents are banned along with cameras with lenses of 12 or more inches. The Orioles ban bags with wheels at Camden Yards. □

Islanders lose to Canes, but make playoffs

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) —

The New York Islanders clinched an Eastern Conference playoff spot despite a 4-3 shootout loss to the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday.

With the point they received by reaching overtime, coupled with a loss by the Winnipeg Jets at Washington, the Islanders secured a place in the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

John Tavares tied it with 1:01 left in regulation. Josh Bailey and Brad Boyes also scored, and Evgeni Nabokov made 29 saves for the Islanders.

Riley Nash and Jeff Skinner scored in the shootout to give the Hurricanes the victory.

Carolina's Jordan Staal had a goal and an assist, Patrick Dwyer and Alexander Semin added goals, and Dan Ellis made 36 saves before stopping Frans Nielsen and Boyes in the shootout.

The Islanders earned a point for the 11th straight game (8-0-3).

CAPITALS 5, JETS 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Capitals clinched the Southeast Division title, completing a stark turnaround in a lock-out-shortened season with a win over Winnipeg.

The Capitals blew a two-goal lead, survived a pair of replay reviews and exhaled deeply when defensemen John Erskine cleared two shots off the goal line. They also had to kill a late power play, but they held to win for the 10th time in 11 games.

Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 31st goal — an empty-netter in the final minute — and Matt Hendricks, Jason Chimera, Nicklas Backstrom and Mathieu Perreault also scored. Braden Holtby made 24 saves.

Evander Kane, Blake Wheeler and Nik Antropov scored for the Jets, who had won six of seven but were playing the second half of a road back-to-back after beating Buffalo



Buffalo Sabres' Steve Ott (9) deflects a rebound for a goal against Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Tuesday, April 23, 2013. The Sabres won 4-2.

Associated Press

on Monday.

BLUES 3, AVALANCHE 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Chris Stewart reached career milestones of 100 goals and 100 assists and St. Louis clinched a playoff berth with two games to spare, beating Colorado.

Brian Elliott made 17 saves two nights after getting yanked in a 5-3 loss at Colorado that squandered the Blues' first chance at clinching. St. Louis, which entered the game needing a point to qualify, scored two power-play goals for the first time in 32 games since Feb. 15 in the home-and-home rematch.

Patrik Berglund and Andy McDonald beat Semyon Varlamov on consecutive shots in the second period to make it 3-0. Together, that duo had two assists in 14 games.

The Blues have made the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2003-04. They have won four in a row at home to match their season best. Cody McLeod scored his eighth of the season and fifth in five games for the Avalanche, who are an NHL-worst 3-16-4 on the road. Varlamov made 31 saves.

SHARKS 3, STARS 2

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Logan Couture and Joe Pavelski scored goals 30 seconds apart late in the third period to help San Jose clinch its ninth straight playoff berth with a come-

from-behind victory over Dallas.

Raffi Torres also scored for the Sharks, who moved into a tie for fourth place in the Western Conference with Los Angeles with two games remaining in the race for home-ice advantage in the first round. The Sharks visit the Kings in the season finale on Saturday. Antoine Roussel and Loui Eriksson scored for the Stars, whose playoff hopes were dealt a serious blow. Dallas remains two points behind ninth-place Detroit and three behind eighth-place Columbus in the race for the final playoff spot. The Red Wings have a game in hand over both teams. The Stars end the season with home games against Columbus and Detroit.

PANTHERS 3, RANGERS 2

SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Marcel Goc and Drew Shore scored third-period goals, and Florida prevented the New York Rangers from clinching an Eastern Conference playoff berth. Goc broke a tie, and Drew Shore added a short-handed, empty-net goal to give Florida a 3-1 lead before the Rangers got back with in a goal.

Tomas Fleischmann netted the first goal and added an assist, and Jacob Markstrom stopped 36 shots for the Panthers, who have the fewest points in the NHL and snapped a six-game losing streak.

Derick Brassard and Taylor

Pyatt scored for the Rangers (24-18-4) and Henrik Lundqvist made 13 saves. The Rangers, who had won three straight, have a one-point lead over Winnipeg with two games left.

DEVILS 3, CANADIENS 2

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Patrik Elias scored his 375th NHL goal, Martin Brodeur made 19 saves for his 669th victory and New Jer-

sey beat Montreal.

New Jersey, which was eliminated from playoff contention on Sunday, dealt a blow to Montreal's hopes of winning the Northeast Division. The Devils (18-18-10) won for the third time in four games following a 10-game losing streak.

The sputtering Canadiens (27-14-5) lost for the fifth time in six games. □

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APRIL 25 - MAY 1

NEW THIS WEEK

ON TWO SCREENS

Mark Wahlberg Dwayne Johnson

PAIN & GAIN

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:45 / 6:25 / 8:30 / 9:15
Fri 4:00 / 5:45 / 6:25 / 8:30 / 9:15 / 11:15
Sat 2:50 / 3:40 / 5:45 / 6:25 / 8:30 / 9:15 / 11:15
Sun & Hol 2:50 / 3:40 / 5:45 / 6:25 / 8:30 / 9:15

NEW THIS WEEK

ON TWO SCREENS

Robert De Niro Diane Keaton

The Big Wedding

Mon - Thurs 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
Fri 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30 / 11:40
Sat 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ON TWO SCREENS

Tom Cruise Morgan Freeman

OBLIVION

With Spanish Subtitles **PG-13**

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:05 / 6:40 / 7:45 / 9:20
Fri 4:00 / 5:05 / 6:40 / 7:45 / 9:20 / 10:25 / 12:00
Sat 2:25 / 4:00 / 5:05 / 6:40 / 7:45 / 9:20 / 10:25 / 12:00
Sun & Hol 2:25 / 4:00 / 5:05 / 6:40 / 7:45 / 9:20

ON TWO SCREENS

Chadwick Boseman Harrison Ford

42

Mon - Thurs 9:15
Fri 9:15
Sat 9:15
Sun & Hol 9:15

ON TWO SCREENS

Charlie Sheen Ashley Tisdale

SCARY MOVIE

Mon - Thurs 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35
Fri 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35 / 11:40
Sat 3:20 / 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 3:20 / 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35

ON TWO SCREENS

Dwayne Johnson Susan Sarandon

SNITCH

Mon - Thurs 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25
Fri 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25 / 11:55
Sat 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25

ON TWO SCREENS

Nicolas Cage Emma Stone

THE CROODS

3D Version With Spanish Subtitles **PG**

Mon - Thurs 4:45 / 7:00
Fri 4:45 / 7:00
Sat 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00
Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00

STARTING THURSDAY MAY 2

IRON MAN 3

PG-13

UK experts: Cosmetic surgery needs tighter rules

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — A group of independent experts has slammed Britain's cosmetic surgery industry for not protecting patients adequately and is calling for stricter controls in the aftermath of a breast implant scandal in Europe last year that left tens of thousands of women with cheap silicone implants prone to ruptures. A top British health official, meanwhile, signaled support for their recommendations.

In a review of how cosmetic procedures are regulated, the group said all skin fillers should be available by prescription only and that all practitioners — from surgeons to aestheticians who inject Botox — must be properly qualified.

Department of Health, also called for the creation of an ombudsman for private health care, among other suggestions.



Dr. Maurice Mimoun, a plastic surgeon at the St Louis hospital in Paris holds a silicone gel breast implant made by French company Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP, that he removed from a patient because of concerns that they are unsafe.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

fied. The expert group, commissioned by the U.K. a registry of implants and other medical devices and

The recommendations were released in a report on Wednesday. The British government has previously rejected calls to oversee cosmetic procedures and the industry is largely self-regulated.

There are few rules on who is allowed to perform a non-surgical cosmetic intervention. "Anyone can give you a (skin) filler anytime, anywhere," said Bruce Keogh, medical director of the National Health Service, who led the review. "This is a bizarre situation."

During an embargoed press briefing on Monday, Keogh said the commercialization of the industry has led to some questionable claims about the efficacy of certain procedures.

"This is a pretty data-free zone," Keogh said. In the report, Keogh and others wrote that a person having a non-surgical procedure such as a Botox injection "has no more protection and redress than someone buying a ball-point pen."

They noted that the cosmetic interventions sector has grown by 300 percent in the last five years and that the use of procedures such as injecting substances to smooth out the skin make up 75 percent of the market.

"It is our view that dermal fillers are a crisis waiting to happen," the report concluded. Side effects from skin fillers can include scarring, infection and even blindness.

Catherine Kydd, a Briton who received faulty breast implants, said stricter ethical policies should be in place for those who perform cosmetic surgeries and procedures. "When you see a surgeon, you shouldn't be seeing a salesman," she said.

Regulations on cosmetic interventions in the U.K. are more lax than elsewhere. In Denmark, anyone carrying out cosmetic interventions must be registered with a national health board. When standards are breached, the board can suspend a clinic's operations, impose fines, strike professionals off the register and refer cases to the police. There is no such system in the U.K.

Keogh noted there are about 190 different types of skin fillers available in Europe versus only 14 approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In a statement, Dr. Dan Poulter, a senior minister in the Department of Health, said it was time for the government to step in.

"There is a significant risk of people falling into the hands of cowboy firms or individuals whose only aim is to make a quick profit," he said.

US device will screen for fake medicines

M. PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials are making a high-tech screening device available in Africa to help spot counterfeit malaria pills in hopes that the technology may eventually be used to combat the fake drug trade worldwide. The Food and Drug Administration announced Wednesday that U.S. partners in Ghana will begin using a U.S.-developed handheld device to screen for fake or diluted versions of two common malaria pills. More than a third of malaria-fighting pills used in Africa and Asia are either fake or bad quality, according to a study released last year. Rampant drug counterfeiting has undermined efforts to fight the mosquito-borne disease, which causes fever, chills and flu-like illness. Malaria kills more than 660,000 people each year, more than 90 percent of them in Africa. If the FDA's counterfeit detection device, or CD-3, proves effective in Ghana, the agency hopes to mass produce it on an international scale, which could ultimately reduce counterfeiting around the world. Counterfeit medicines have long been a problem in developing re-

gions like Africa and Asia, but more fake drugs have been making their way to U.S. pharmacies and hospitals as drug supply chains increasingly stretch across continents. Over 80 percent of the active ingredients used in U.S. pharmaceuticals are now manufactured overseas, according to one congressional estimate.

"We live in a world where the marketplace is increasingly global, where the supply chain of drugs is increasingly vulnerable and we are seeing many more problems with substandard and counterfeit drugs around the world," said FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, in an interview with The Associated Press. "Unfortunately developing economies are the most burdened by this problem, but we've had serious threats to health in this country as well."

Last year the FDA issued three separate warnings about counterfeit versions of the Roche cancer drug Avastin that were sold to U.S. cancer clinics and hospitals. An unknown amount of those fakes was administered to patients. Five years earlier, hundreds of Americans suffered severe allergic reactions and at least 80 died from taking a

contaminated blood-thinning ingredient imported from China.

Most counterfeit operations are based in countries with weak regulatory standards, like China, India or Turkey. The fake or substandard drugs can make

enough to cure the disease — are also problematic because they promote resistance that can eventually outsmart medicines and render them useless. FDA officials say this trend could eventually threaten Americans.



A boy watches as malaria medicine is dispensed in Sittwe, Myanmar. Counterfeit malaria drugs are a growing problem in several regions around the world.

(Handout Photo)

their way to Africa, Europe or the U.S. through complicated international networks of medical wholesalers and suppliers.

Fake drugs with no malaria-fighting ingredient can lead to deaths when patients rely on them, and those containing some active ingredients — but not

"If anti-malaria drug resistance develops in Ghana and other regions it impacts us because it means that strains of malaria are circulating and anyone can be exposed to them when they're traveling, or when people who are infected come into this country," Hamburg said.

iTunes celebrates a decade, faces new challenges

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Apple launched its iTunes music store a decade ago amid the ashes of Napster, the music industry — reeling from the effects of on-line piracy — was anxious to see how the new music service would shake out.

"The sky was falling, and iTunes provided a place where we were going to monetize music and in theory stem the tide of piracy. So, it was certainly a solution for the time," said Michael McDonald, who co-founded ATO Records with Dave Matthews and whose Mick Management roster includes John Mayer and Ray LaMontagne.

The iTunes music store became much more than a solution; it changed how we consume music and access entertainment. It's not only music's biggest retailer, it also dominates the digital video market, capturing 67 percent of the TV show sale market and 65 percent of the movie sale market, according to information company NPD group. Its apps are the most profitable, it has expanded to books and magazines, and it is now available in 119 countries. This week, iTunes posted a record \$2.4 billion in revenue in first-quarter earnings. "They revolutionized the retail landscape by making a truly interactive and very user-friendly space and platform, and they managed to do it by keeping a great music experience attached to what was very difficult technology," said Scott Borchetta, head of Big Machine Records, home to Taylor Swift, Tim McGraw and Rascal Flatts. "They made it very easy to buy music digitally, and that's why I think they've run so quickly in the lead for that space and continue to dominate the space."

But as iTunes celebrates its 10-year mark Sunday, it faces renewed scrutiny on how it will continue to dominate in the next decade — or whether it can. With competition from subscription services like Spo-



This undated screen image released by iTunes shows the iTunes music page on a computer screen. The iTunes music store changed how we consume music and access entertainment.

Associated Press

tify and other services like Amazon.com, Netflix, Hulu and others, iTunes will likely need to reinvent itself to remain at the top of the digital entertainment perch.

Apple Inc.'s Eddy Cue, senior vice president of Internet software and services, refused to comment on reports that the company will launch a radio service or some other service to compete with Spotify.

"We've been able to add and expand and do a lot of things to make the product even that much better," said Cue, who was integral to the creation of iTunes. "Why it's going to be great for the next 10 years is because people still want access and want more of what's available today."

At first only available to Mac users, iTunes debuted two years after Apple's groundbreaking iPod. With a catalog of 200,000 songs — compared with tens and tens of millions of songs available today — iTunes entered an industry being upended by illegal downloading yet still skeptical of the new music store.

There were more than grumbles when Apple co-founder Steve Jobs set parameters making all songs available at a cap of 99 cents (today, songs can cost up to \$1.29) and giving listeners more control of what they could do with music collection in terms of portability and ownership.

"In the case of the labels, we felt and we were able to convince them that we had a business proposition that would be better for them in the long term, and gave them an opportunity to compete with

to the music business in the last 10 years, but you'll hear from the labels that Steve Jobs ruined the music business," McDonald said.

"But to me, it's allowed a place to expose artists who are gaining popularity in all



This April 7, 2013 file photo shows members of the band Lady Antebellum, from left, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

piracy," Cue recalled. "So our message to them was the only way to beat piracy wasn't lawsuits or TV ads or anything, but to actually offer what was available through piracy and people would actually pay for it if you did that. So we had to get them to all agree. As part of that, you had to get them to agree to all of the same rights." Some in the industry grumbled about having to accept Jobs' rules; some still do (while digital sales rise, album sales have decreased and the industry's profits have continued to drop over the decade). "To me, it's been one of the biggest assets

genres, and although it has impacted the album sales, I think it has become a real barometer of what's good and what's popular," he said. "Singles artists aren't selling albums. Well, they never should have. But album artists continue to sell albums. If anything, it's given a revenue stream to what would have been the Wild West."

Lady Antebellum's entire career has been in the iTunes era, and it's a key part of their sales. "We found out that ... just around 20 percent of our sales is iTunes," said Charles Kelley. "iTunes is just something we've always em-

braced."

iTunes "changed the music industry completely" and "gave people the power as opposed to record companies the power, in a way," said singer-actress Jennifer Lopez.

"It has its pros and cons, I think, for artists," she said. "I'm an artist, so I look at it from an artist point of view. But we're in a new age. It's like anything else. You've got to accept it."

That new age includes the growing popularity of services like Spotify and Rdio, where listeners can stream music for free and can pay a set price to listen and collect songs. Industry watchers have heard rumors that an iRadio could be launched that would be something like Pandora, the popular Internet radio site. "We don't know all the specifics of what it might be and when it might come, but what we've heard so far, it will compete with those other online services," Borchetta said. Cue refused to comment on the speculation. He said users still favor the iTunes model compared with subscription services.

"(A premium subscription) costs \$10 a month, that's \$120 a year, and most average music customers don't spend that kind of money," he said. "If you buy it on ownership, you own it, and a subscription model, your subscription never ends if you want to keep listening to it, so you're paying that \$10 or more for life."

"If you're starting your music collection from existing songs, which a lot of us already have from that standpoint, you're looking to acquire new songs, even today, at 99 cents or \$1.29, or \$9.99 or \$7.99 for an album, it is very economical and a better value for subscription music." McDonald believes subscription services may become the standard.

"My generation and probably the generation after me still have this idea of ownership and pride in what we own in a record collection, and I think we always thought it spoke to who we are. □

Weak corporate earnings prospects weigh on stocks

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market finished pretty much where it started Wednesday as a mixed bag of earnings from big-name American com-

and AT&T. P&G issued a weak quarterly profit forecast and AT&T lost subscribers from its contract-based plans for the first time. Investors are taking their cue from a heavy dose of earnings this week.

percent, to \$37.04 after it lost phone subscribers from its contract-based plans in its latest quarter. It's a sign that industry growth is slowing now that most American have smartphones. Investors were also disap-

cent. The S&P 500 index was barely changed at 1,578.79. The Nasdaq composite edged up 0.32 point at 3,269.55. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks fared better. It rose 0.5 percent, or 4.75 points, to 934.11.

So far, 175 of the companies in the S&P 500, or 35 percent, have reported quarterly earnings. Two-thirds of the Dow's members have reported.

While the majority of them have delivered better-than-expected profits, their sales haven't been as strong, suggesting they are struggling to grow.

Sixty-nine percent of companies in the S&P 500 have beaten earnings expectations, better than the 10-year average of 62 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. However, only 39 percent have beaten revenue forecasts.

Looking ahead, the outlook dims. Of the 35 companies that have given earnings forecasts for the second quarter, 28 are "negative," according to S&P Capital IQ, with only four "positive" and three "in-line." "We think that most managements are appropriately cautious in their outlooks, because it's very possible that the second-quarter will continue to slow," said Jim Russell, a regional investment director at U.S. Bank. □



Specialist Michael Pistillo, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Stock indexes were little changed on Wall Street following mixed earnings results from Apple, Ford, Boeing and other major U.S. companies. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

panies left investors uninspired. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, the market's most widely used barometer, ended up, but just barely: 0.01 point.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged down 43 points, held back by big drops in Procter & Gamble

P&G, the maker of Tide detergent and Gillette razors, dropped \$4.82, or 5.1 percent, to \$77.12 after its profit forecast came in below what financial analysts were expecting. The company reported uneven demand for its new products. AT&T dropped \$1.96, or 5.2

pointed by sales growth at biotech giant Amgen and flat revenues at drugmaker Eli Lilly, though companies such as Boeing and General Dynamics tempered the mood with strong quarterly profits. The Dow closed down 43.16 points at 14,676.30, or 0.3 per-

Boeing sees early-May restart of 787 deliveries

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Boeing reported a better-than-expected first-quarter profit even as it scrambled to fix its grounded 787.

The company said on Wednesday that deliveries of the 787 should resume in early May. Most of the 50 planes that have been delivered to airlines will be fixed by the middle of the month, Chairman and CEO Jim McNerney said on the company's quarterly earnings conference call. Resuming deliveries and passenger flights would cap a notable turnaround for Boeing. The three-month grounding over battery problems frus-

trated airlines and turned a spotlight onto the way commercial planes are designed and regulated. Putting the problem behind it will let Boeing focus on building new versions of its best-selling 737 and 777. Air safety authorities around the world grounded 787s after two different planes suffered from smoldering batteries — one of them including a fire, one of them in-flight — in January. The Federal Aviation Administration has approved Boeing's redesigned battery system, which the company says should sharply reduce the risk of a fire.

Once the FAA approves

the fix on individual planes, airlines can start flying them again. United Airlines, the only U.S. airline with the planes, moved one of its six 787s to a Boeing facility in San Antonio, Texas, on Tuesday so it can get the battery fix. Neither of the battery incidents involved a United jet.

The new battery system includes extra insulation between the battery's individual cells, a box designed to contain any fire and changes that Boeing says will extinguish any fire almost instantly. The fix should keep any battery problems "from affecting the airplane or even being noticed by passengers,"

McNerney said.

The new battery setup has been installed on 10 787s that belong to airlines, and on nine more that have been built but not delivered, he said. Each installation takes about five days. Boeing wouldn't say how much the 787 issue has cost. Much of the expense was soaked up by its research and development budget, Chief Financial Officer Greg Smith said.

Boeing's net income rose 20 percent in the quarter to \$1.11 billion, or \$1.44 per share. Excluding pension-related charges, Boeing would have earned \$1.73 per share, well above analyst expectations. □

MetroPCS shareholders approve offer by T-Mobile

PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — MetroPCS Communications Inc., the fifth-largest U.S. cellphone carrier, said its shareholders have overwhelmingly approved the company's takeover by No. 4 T-Mobile USA.

Wednesday's approval was expected after T-Mobile sweetened its bid and major shareholders withdrew their objections. T-Mobile's initial offer was approved by MetroPCS' board, but shareholders and shareholder advisory firms called it inadequate. Nick Lamplough, a spokesman for MetroPCS, said shareholders voted for the deal at their special meeting in Richardson, Texas, on Wednesday morning.

MetroPCS said the deal is expected to be completed next Tuesday.

The deal is intended to produce a stronger combined company worth about \$16 billion and with 43 million devices on its wireless network. By combining the space allocated to each company on the airwaves, the new company should be able to deliver faster wireless data downloads, a crucial competitive factor.

"We are thrilled that MetroPCS stockholders voted to approve this transaction, which delivers strategic and financial benefits," T-Mobile CEO John Legere said in a statement. "A combined T-Mobile and MetroPCS will unite two companies with one common vision: challenge the status quo and deliver exceptional wireless experiences for our customers."

The deal gives MetroPCS shareholders 26 percent of the combined company. T-Mobile's German parent, Deutsche Telekom AG, will own the rest.

Bellevue, Washington-based T-Mobile lacks a stock listing in the U.S., but the new company will keep MetroPCS' stock listing. The deal has all requisite regulatory approvals. □

Cost-cutting gives Credit Suisse Group a huge Q1 lift

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) —

Swiss bank Credit Suisse Group said Wednesday that its cost-cutting efforts helped it record a huge jump in first-quarter profits compared with a year earlier.

Switzerland's second-biggest bank posted a profit of 1.3 billion Swiss francs (\$1.37 billion), up sharply

from the 44 million francs in the first quarter of 2012, when it booked a loss of 1.6 billion francs on its own outstanding debt and paid out higher bonuses.

Net revenue rose 6 percent to 7.2 billion francs. The bank said the figures showed "positive momentum" coming from its attempts to transform its business model, that includes a lot of cost-cutting.

Credit Suisse shares closed up 1.47 percent at 26.84 francs Wednesday in Zurich.

"The first quarter of 2013 shows that the strategic measures we have successfully implemented since mid-2011 are effective in bringing results to the bottom line on a consistent basis," Chief Executive Brady Dougan said. "We had a very good start

to 2013."

The bank, based in Zurich, said the results for the January-March period showed "high returns, strong client franchises, reduced cost base and lower risk-weighted assets." Like its cross-town and bigger competitor, UBS AG, Credit Suisse has been reducing its riskier assets at a time when Europe's economy is hurting. Both banks have been

setting aside more capital cushion to meet international and domestic regulatory demands. But Credit Suisse has not cut back on its investment banking as much as UBS, and a restructuring in Credit Suisse's investment bank compensated for a falloff in profits from its private banking, one of the largest such operations in the world in terms of assets. □

Ford's first quarter profit up 15 percent to \$1.6B

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) —

Ford Motor Co.'s first-quarter profit rose 15 percent to a \$1.6 billion thanks to record earnings in North America and strong sales in China. The automaker lost money again in Europe, although it sees some hints of improvement there.

Ford earned 40 cents per share, up from 35 cents in the same quarter a year ago. Without one-time charges, including restructuring costs in Europe, Ford would have earned 41 cents. That beat Wall Street's forecast of 37 cents, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

"It's a very good start to the year for us," Ford's Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks said Wednesday.

Ford earned \$2.4 billion in North America, the highest quarterly total since the company began reporting results regionally in 2000.

The Fusion midsize sedan and Escape SUV — newly redesigned for the 2013

model year — were powerhouses in the quarter. U.S. sales of both vehicles rose 25 percent. With its sharp styling and unique, hexagonal grille, the Fusion gained share from perennial midsize leaders like the Toyota Camry and Nissan Altima. Ford sold 80,558 Fusions in the quarter. The angular Escape SUV was right behind with nearly 73,000 sales, drawing buyers from older models like the Honda CR-V with promises of better fuel economy and towing capacity.

Ford's F-Series trucks, the best-selling vehicles in the U.S., are getting a boost from an improvement in home building and other construction. F-Series sales rose 17 percent in the first quarter, or nearly three times the average sales increase for the industry, according to Autodata Corp. U.S. buyers paid an average \$32,784 for a Ford in the first quarter, or around \$1,000 more than the same period a year ago, according to Internet buying

site TrueCar.com. Investors' reaction was muted. Ford's shares were down 3 cents to \$13.33 in late afternoon trading, although they had gained nearly 5 percent in



Ford's Flat Rock Assembly Plant employees cheer as the millionth Ford Mustang is driven off the assembly line in Flat Rock, Mich. A million Mustangs have rolled off the Flat Rock assembly since production moved there in 2004. The car was built at Ford's Rouge factory for four decades before moving to Flat Rock in 2004. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

the three days before the earnings. The shares have traded in a 52-week range of \$8.82 to \$14.30. Jamie Albertine, an auto analyst with Stifel Nicolaus, said investors may not have liked Ford's rising costs in North

America. Ford's operating margin in the region fell slightly to 11 percent from 11.5 percent in the same period a year ago. Ford said that was partly due to

increased hiring and production.

Albertine said investors also tend to dismiss gains that are based, in part, on a finance arm. Ford Credit contributed \$503 million to the company's results in

the first quarter.

Ford eked out a \$6 million profit in its Asia Pacific and Africa region. The Ford Focus small car has quickly become a best-seller in China, where Ford's sales were up 54 percent in the quarter. But the results were tempered by Ford's seventh straight quarterly loss in Europe, where a recession has devastated car sales. Ford lost \$462 million in Europe in the first quarter as sales plummeted 20 percent. Ford reiterated that it expects to lose \$2 billion in Europe this year.

Results from European automakers captured the gloom. Germany's Volkswagen AG reported a 38 percent decline in its net profit, to \$2.5 billion, and Daimler AG said its profit fell 60 percent to \$733 million. European auto sales have fallen steadily for the last 18 months as a government debt crisis has weakened the economy and made consumers unable or afraid to take on a large purchase. □

Novartis posts profit gain thanks to new drugs

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) —

Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis AG reported a 6.7 percent increase in profit for the first quarter Wednesday, boosted by new products and emerging markets.

Novartis says its net profit rose to \$2.42 billion from \$2.27 billion in the same period last year despite declining sales of its blockbuster heart drug Diovan,

which lost U.S. patent protection last year.

The Basel-based company said in a statement the increase — a turnaround from the 18 percent earnings drop in the first quarter of 2012 — reflected new product launches such as Gilenya for multiple sclerosis and Afinitor for cancer, strength in emerging markets and EU and U.S. drug approvals to offset patent expirations.

The newly launched drugs

added \$4.2 billion in revenue, almost a third of sales, making up for its estimated \$500 million in losses during the quarter because of patent expirations.

But the quarter was notably marked by the controversy over Novartis' outgoing board chairman, Daniel Vasella, who touched off widespread anger for his whopping 72 million Swiss francs (\$77 million) severance package that he later declined because

of the Swiss public's outcry. Also Wednesday, Novartis disclosed that its new chairman, Joerg Reinhardt, would be paid 3.8 million francs, split equally between cash and stock, plus receive 2.6 million euros for lost compensation from his former employer. It also said that Ulrich Lehner would receive about 790,000 francs in cash and stock for serving as chairman ad-interim from Feb. 22 until July 31.

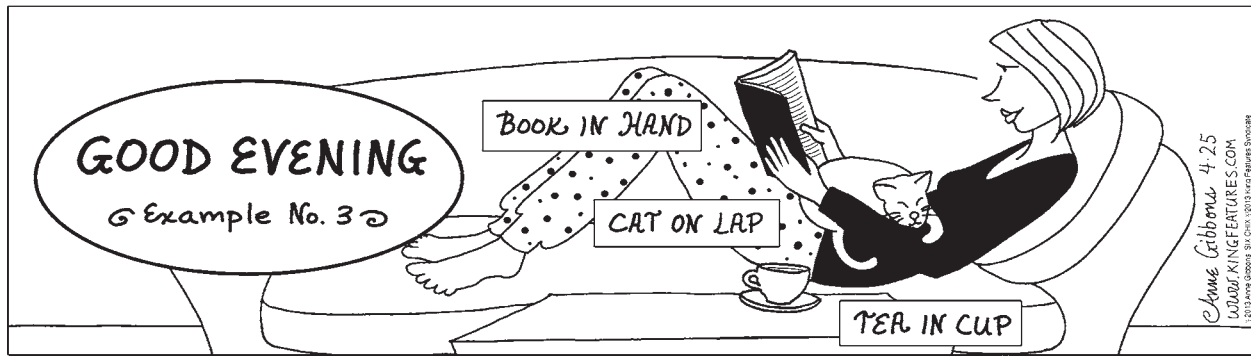
Novartis also unexpectedly announced that its chief finance officer, Jon Symonds, is being replaced by Harry Kirsch, the finance head for the pharmaceuticals division.

On Tuesday, the U.S. government filed a civil health care fraud lawsuit against Novartis in New York, claiming it gave kickbacks to pharmacies to switch transplant patients from competitors' drugs to its own. □

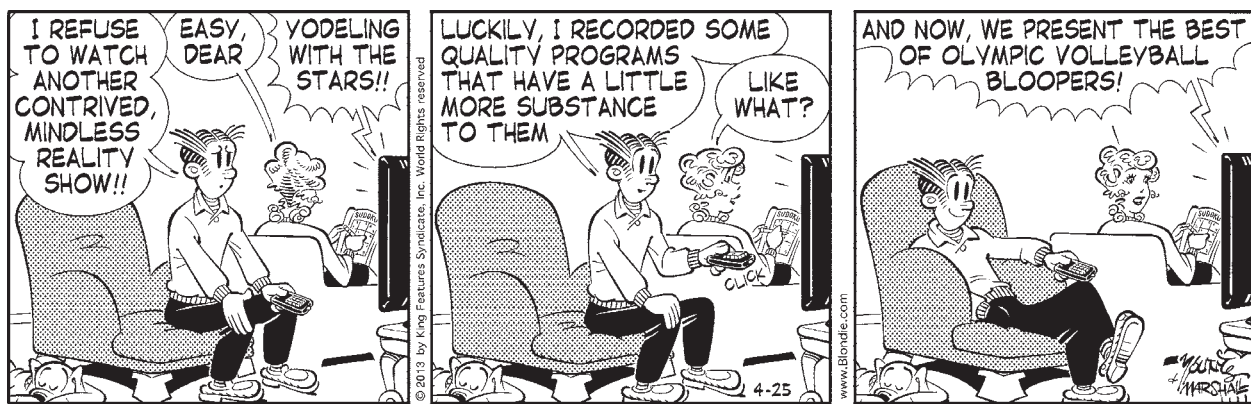
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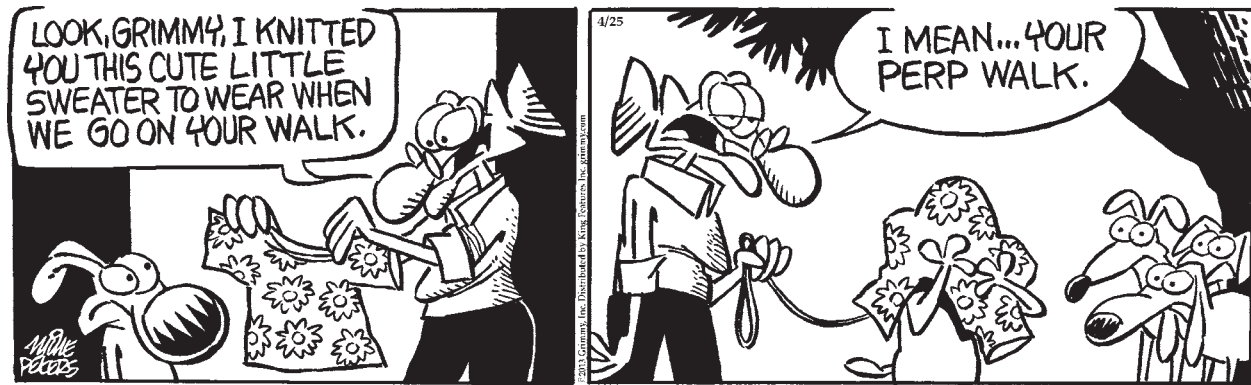
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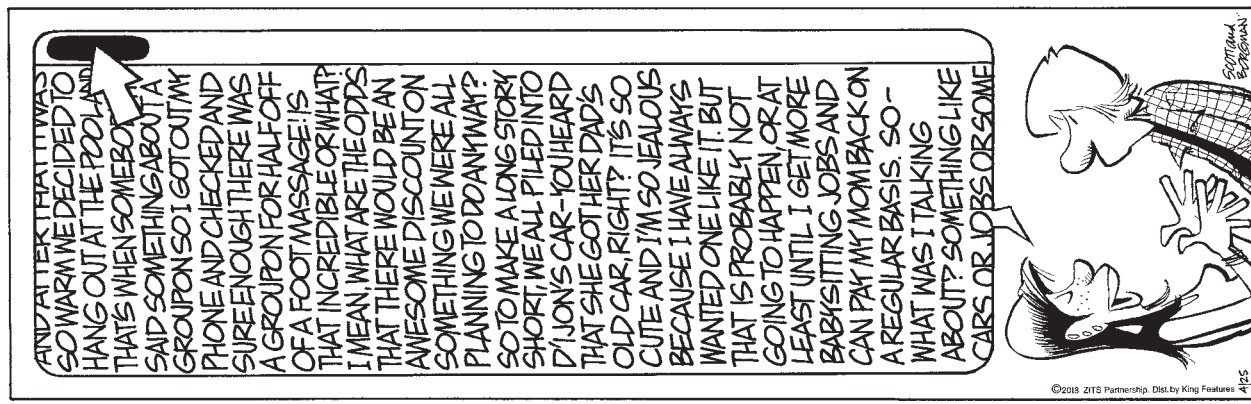
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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| | | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/25

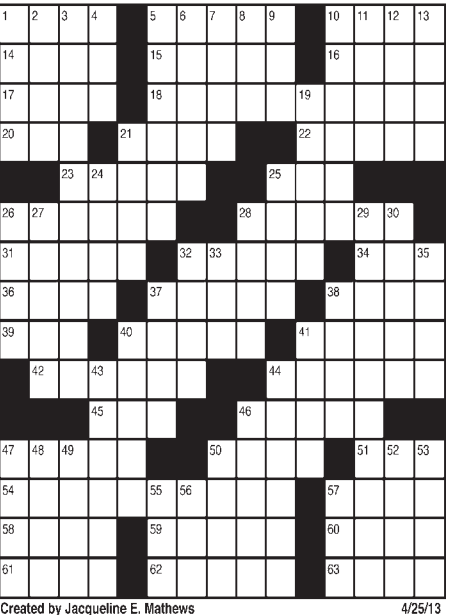
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 |

ACROSS

- 1 Reminder of an old wound
- 5 Fast
- 10 Pretense
- 14 Sleep out
- 15 Wood for black piano keys
- 16 ___ and oil; car maintenance
- 17 Highest point
- 18 Of interest to buyers
- 20 ___ person; apiece
- 21 Clenched hand
- 22 Beginning; start
- 23 Date of ___; first day of one's life
- 25 Floor pad
- 26 Climbs
- 28 Smooches
- 31 Identical
- 32 Leaning
- 34 And not
- 36 Title for a prince in India
- 37 Make hamburger
- 38 Villain
- 39 Lyricist ___ Gershwin
- 40 Completely full
- 41 Exhausted
- 42 Actor Don ___
- 44 Benefactors
- 45 ___ the line; obey
- 46 Chain pieces
- 47 Boise's state
- 50 Rider's charge
- 51 Total
- 54 ___ into; becoming
- 57 Deep mud
- 58 Hideaway
- 59 Satirical skit
- 60 High school subject: abbr.
- 61 Loose ___; unfinished business
- 62 Joyce Kilmer's famous poem
- 63 Elderly



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/25/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| PUP | PACED | MAID |
| ISLE | ADAGE | ALDA |
| NEED | LUNGS | RELY |
| DAUNTLESS | AXES | |
| | CURT | EMU |
| MALADY | PARADISE | |
| ABATE | TASTE | DIN |
| CAPE | LICKS | SEED |
| ASS | GORES | STAGE |
| WHENEVER | ROUSED | |
| | ALE | MEND |
| MAGI | STRANGELY | |
| EVIL | ERUPT | NOUN |
| MOVE | AISLE | TALE |
| OWED | TOTED | DEW |

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- 2 ___ with; endure without falling apart
- 3 Former Soviet republic
- 4 Reed or Linn
- 5 Sends in payment
- 6 Put to shame
- 7 Harbor city
- 8 Pen contents
- 9 Change the color of
- 10 Inclines
- 11 Wheel centers
- 12 Competent
- 13 Encounter
- 19 Brownd bread
- 21 Liberate
- 24 Actress Chase
- 25 Not at all harsh
- 26 Robe for Indira
- 27 Dick or Petula
- 28 Good-hearted
- 29 Fascinating; spellbinding
- 30 More miffed
- 32 ___ and crafts
- 33 Even score

DOWN

- 1 Cleansing bar

- 35 Cincinnati team
- 37 Fence opening
- 38 Pig's remark
- 40 Seat at a bar
- 41 Muscle quality
- 43 "Do unto"
- 44 Mournful songs
- 46 Knight's spear
- 47 Not working
- 48 College official
- 49 Zealous
- 50 Blaze
- 52 Egg on
- 53 Blend together
- 55 Many a time
- 56 Not up to ___; substandard
- 57 ___ culpa

Millions may be eligible for college loan forgiveness

Meagan Pant

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- Americans owe more than \$1 trillion in student loans -- a total that surpasses credit card debt -- but millions who are past due on their payments are not taking advantage of a federal program designed to make their debt manageable. The federal income-based repayment (IBR) program reduces eligible borrowers' monthly payments based on income, and it forgives the balance of loans after up to 25 years. Those who owe more than they earn in a year likely are eligible. And those working in public service fields, such as teachers, can have their loans forgiven after 10 years.

"It's not just that the payment is capped for your earnings, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel," said Lauren Asher, president of The Institute for College Access & Success. Student debt has nearly tripled since 2004, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and college students are borrowing larger amounts. Add the Great Recession to that mix and recent graduates are finding fewer job opportunities and lower or stagnant wages.

As a result, according to a poll by Demos, young Americans are delaying important life decisions, such as buying a house (46 percent) or starting a family (30 percent).

More than 1.3 million borrowers were using the IBR program as of December 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Education. At the same time, about 6.7 million people were more than 90 days behind on their loans, according to the Federal Reserve Bank. And although the IBR program has been available since 2009, the number of borrowers defaulting on their loans increased 31 percent in just two years, according to Demos.

"Clearly there needs to be more outreach, not just for those first leaving school,

but also to people who are already in repayment on their loans and are struggling," Asher said.

"Not everyone who is eligible will decide that IBR is the best option for them, but it's crucial that they know it's out there."

'A manageable level' Katie King has been using income-based repayment since she joined the staff of the Dayton Early College Academy nine years ago. King loves that at DECA, a charter school for Dayton high school students who may be the first in their families to attend college, she can help her students, who sometimes call her "mom," and their families, even after they leave DECA and go on to college. But on a new teacher's salary, the payments for the loans she took out to earn a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Dayton were challenging, especially on top of living expenses and the money she spends each month on

her students. King, a math teacher, also has two private loans, which are not eligible for IBR. She has had \$8,000 on her federal Perkins Loan forgiven because she is a teacher. She still owes \$16,000 on her federal and private loans.

King said she hopes it will be easy to complete the paperwork to have the remaining balance of her federal loan forgiven in a year.

The process was made easier by President Barack Obama's administration, and the president launched an effort to better publicize the program last summer. Still, Asher said more outreach is needed. Dayton Early College Academy math teacher Lisa Halpin said she looked into income-based repayment and loan forgiveness after hearing other teachers talk about it. Because of a special program for certain teachers, the Wright State University alumnus said she was able to have more than \$17,000 in loans forgiven after five years teaching at DECA. □

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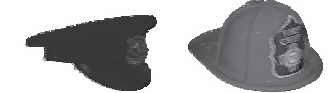
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DI NOS E TAI

South Africa: fight over rhino poaching escalates

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

A U.S. firm recently gave smart phones to some game rangers in South Africa to help them track poachers who kill rhinos for their horns. An anti-poaching ad campaign in Vietnam, a key illegal market, shows rhinos with human hands or feet in place of horns, which are made from the same material as fingernails and toenails.

Despite these and other globe-spanning projects to protect the rhinoceros, the rate of poaching in South Africa — home to most of Africa's rhinos — this year is on track to exceed the record number of illegal kills in 2012, conservation officials say. The more money, innovation and publicity go into the cause, the more poachers, who see rhino horn as a high-priced commodity, seemingly diversify their hunt.

It resembles a tit-for-tat escalation, similar to the old arcade game "Whac-a-Mole," in which disparate campaigns can target a poaching tactic or location only for the killing to pop up in other places and forms.

"The demand seems to be such that every time there's a clampdown in one area, another issue emerges," said Dr. Jo Shaw, a rhino expert in South Africa for the World Wildlife Fund.

South Africa, a haven-turned-killing ground, was once a big success. The intensity of the battle here has since made it a crucible for experiments and policy debates on how to stop poachers seeking to meet surging demand in some Asian countries. Consumers covet rhino horn after it is ground into a pow-



In this Friday Nov. 22, 2012 file photo, the carcass of one of eight rhino lays on the ground at Finfoot Lake Reserve near Tantanana, South Africa.
Associated Press

der as a balm for health, despite no supporting evidence.

A South African opposition party has urged the government to label rhino poaching as a national disaster, allowing the allocation of disaster management funds to fight poaching. The Democratic Alliance also called for more discussion about legalizing the trade in rhino horns, which can grow back after cutting.

"A total ban on rhino horn trade will eventually lead to the complete extinction of the species. A regulated and controlled trade would supply demand and dismantle poaching syndicates through open market pressures," opposition lawmaker Anthony Benadie said in a statement.

Some conservationists warn that a legal trade would not necessarily stamp out the illegal one. Besides, it would require the approval of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES. The group, which has 173 signatory countries, met in Bangkok in March and won't meet again for three years.

Poachers killed 668 rhinos in South Africa in 2012, a 50

percent increase over the previous year. On April 18, South Africa said 232 rhino had been illegally killed so



In this undated photo supplied by Ol Pejeta Conservancy, shows Anna Merza, interacts with a rhino in Kenya. Merza, a conservationist who sought to protest the rhino from systematic poaching that has severely depleted its numbers in Africa, died in South Africa April 4, 2013.
Associated Press

far this year, 70 percent of them in the vast Kruger National Park.

"The patterns keep indicating that it will be over 800" this year, said Shaw of the World Wildlife Fund.

She said the number of white and black rhinos in South Africa, 19,000 and 2,000 respectively, is actually rising. By some estimates, however, the populations will reach a "tipping point" in 2016 and then decline if poaching persists.

Albi Modise, spokesman for South Africa's department of environmental affairs, said the use of gun silencers and other sophisticated equipment by poachers "requires that we up our game as well in terms of anti-poaching activity."

In one success, Shaw said, authorities have stopped Vietnamese and others kill-

ing rhinos in South Africa under the guise of legal trophy-hunting, and then illegally selling the horns abroad. South Africa regulates limited hunting of rhinos, though this practice is coming under increasing scrutiny.

The poaching crisis has triggered an array of measures whose effectiveness is hotly debated.

The private Sabi Sand game reserve has injected horns of some rhinos with a pink dye and chemicals that could sicken a person who ingests rhino horn. The tactic would be tough to implement in the nearby Kruger park, where rhinos

are harder to track in the vast expanse and where rangers sometimes clash with armed poachers from neighboring Mozambique. CITES is pushing Mozambique to get tougher on poachers, and also urging Vietnam to take steps to curb demand.

Canvas, a Virginia-based technology company, equipped some rangers at the Sabi Sand reserve with smart phones this year. The devices enable them to swiftly share data and images — for example, footprints, holes cut in fences and animal carcasses — that help them patrol the bush and could eventually serve as courtroom evidence against suspected poachers.

James Quigley, head of Canvas, acknowledged

there is a strong financial incentive behind poaching. The price of rhino horn has been compared to the U.S. street value of cocaine, a temptation for criminal syndicates, triggermen from poor villages and some corrupt officials. "The risk versus reward becomes such that each side has to amplify just to keep in line with each other," Quigley said of the battle to stop poachers.

Tom Snitch, an American expert in imagery from satellites and drone aircraft, plans to test small drones in a South African game reserve in late May. He will use satellite imagery and mathematical models to plot flight paths based on predictions of the movements of both rhinos and poachers.

"If we see the poachers, we put the drones on top of them and basically vector them in where they can be apprehended," Snitch said. Some of the technology mirrors that used by U.S. forces to detect insurgents planting roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the fight against poachers is similarly cat-and-mouse, he said.

"You constantly have to refine your model in the anticipation that your adversary is learning your techniques and tactics," said Snitch, a visiting professor in computer studies at the University of Maryland.

South Africa has signed an anti-poaching deal with Vietnam, which has pledged more rigorous inspections of cargo, particularly from Africa, at land, air and sea entry points as well as public awareness campaigns. The World Wildlife Fund and TRAFFIC, a wildlife monitoring network, are launching an ad campaign on social media networks and elsewhere in Vietnam. One poster depicts hands and feet on a rhino's face, noting human nails and rhino horns are both made from a tough protein called keratin.

The caption reads: "Rhino horn is made of the same stuff as human nails. Still want some?" □

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Paltrow named People's Most Beautiful Woman

NEW YORK (AP) — People magazine has named Gwyneth Paltrow as the World's Most Beautiful Woman for 2013.

The 40-year-old actress tops the magazine's annual list of the "World's Most Beautiful," announced Wednesday.

Commenting on her selection, Paltrow says: "Around the house, I'm in jeans and a T-shirt. I don't really wear makeup."

She credits her workout routine for keeping her looking young and feeling strong.

Paltrow is married to Coldplay rocker Chris Martin.



This cover image released by People shows actress Gwyneth Paltrow on the cover of a special double issue. Associated Press

They have two children, Apple, 8, and Moses, 7. □

Diamond donating 'Caroline' sales after Boston bombings

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Diamond is donating some of this week's sales from "Sweet Caroline" after the tune became a source of comfort following the explosions at the Boston Marathon.

Sales from Diamond's song are up by 597 percent, Nielsen SoundScan said Wednesday. Diamond's representative said the singer will donate the recent sales to marathon bombing victims.

"Sweet Caroline" sold 19,000 tracks this week. It sold 2,800 tracks the previ-

ous week and 1.75 million tracks to date.

The crowd-pleasing song is a staple of Boston Red Sox games. It makes no specific mention of Boston or the Red Sox, but the team started playing it regularly at Fenway Park more than a decade ago and fans took to it.

The New York Yankees, Toronto Raptors and other professional sports teams also have played the song at games in the days after the deadly blasts April 15. Diamond released "Sweet Caroline" in 1969. The song was inspired by Caroline Kennedy's name. □



Neil Diamond sings "Sweet Caroline" in the eighth inning of a baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Kansas City Royals in Boston, Saturday, April 20, 2013.

Associated Press



Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel and fiancée Molly McNearney, left, and Talk show host Jimmy Fallon attend the TIME 100 Gala celebrating the "100 Most Influential People in the World" at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Tuesday April 23, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press



Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel and fiancée Molly McNearney attend the TIME 100 Gala celebrating the "100 Most Influential People in the World" at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Tuesday April 23, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

There's room for the 2 Jimmys in late-night TV

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The long-time feud between late-night TV talk show hosts Jay Leno and David Letterman is the stuff of legend and, apparently, so yesterday. The two Jimmys: Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon, agree there's no rivalry between them.

Both were among the honorees in New York Tuesday at a gala recognizing Time magazine's annual list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

"I feel good about it. We're very friendly. I know people

expect us to dislike each other and say bad things about each other but that will never happen," said the 45-year-old Kimmel. He agreed that making nice is a good thing.

"It is nice. We're like (vocalist duo) Peaches & Herb. I'm Peaches," he laughed. They'll face-off in the ratings next year when Fallon leaves NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and replaces Leno as host of "The Tonight Show."

The 38-year-old Fallon said, as of now, things won't change much when he switches to "The Tonight

Show."

"We do a great show now. I think we're ready. I thank Jay Leno for being awesome and still being number one because without him I wouldn't have a job," he laughed. "It's just like they call you up from the minor league so I'm ready to go for the majors and I'm gonna swing for the fences."

In January, ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" moved to the 11:35 p.m. EST time slot, putting it in direct competition with "The Tonight Show" and "Late Show with David Letterman." □

Affleck to get honorary doctorate from Brown University

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — Academy Award-winning actor and director

Ben Affleck is among six artists, writers, scientists and educators selected to receive honorary degrees from Brown University at next month's graduation ceremonies.



In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Ben Affleck poses with his award for best picture for "Argo" during at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Others getting honorary doctorates are author and MIT Professor Junot Diaz; retired Stanford University bacteriologist Stanley Falkow; Tougaloo College President Beverly Wade Hogan; medical doctor and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President Risa Lavizzo-Mourey; and Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padron. □

Review: 'The Hit' is a winner from David Baldacci



This book cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "The Hit," by David Baldacci.

Associated Press

JEFF AYERS,
Associated Press

Will Robie, a government assassin seen in last year's "The Innocent," returns in a bigger and bolder adventure in David Baldacci's new novel, "The Hit." Robie's superiors know he'll obey orders without question, so when one of his

colleagues goes rogue, he's given the task of termination.

Jessica Reel was ordered to assassinate a dictator, but she executed someone else. Robie has worked with Reel, so he's considered the perfect candidate to bring her out of hiding and take her out. The more he digs — and the more targets she eliminates — the more Robie questions his orders. Conspiracy novels aren't new, government traitors aren't original and a killer hired to take out another

killer has been used countless times. But Baldacci puts a fresh spin on the clichés, and the end result is the best Baldacci novel in years. Robie is an assassin with ethics, and the non-stop action and twists help move the story along. What makes "The Hit" live up to its title is the payoff at the novel's end.

By then, Baldacci has planted an emotional hook that remains long after readers have turned the last page of the book. □

Stephen King gives to state gun control coalition

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Author Stephen King and his wife have made a donation to a Maine group advocating for stricter gun control laws.

King says the gift was "five figures" but doesn't want to say more about it because "charity's supposed to be a private thing."

The Coalition for a Safer Maine says King is a gun owner and a defender of the constitutional right to bear arms who supports expanded background checks on gun sales and a

ban on the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines. It says the "substantial contribution" from the "Salem's Lot" author and fellow author Tabitha King will help fund its advocacy efforts.

The Maine Legislature this week is considering several gun control bills.

After the deadly Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school shooting in December, Stephen King wrote a best-selling e-book called "Guns," discussing his thoughts on gun control. □



This undated publicity photo released by courtesy of HBO shows narrator, Lily Tomlin, in the documentary film, "An Apology to Elephants."

Associated Press

Lily Tomlin speaks up for elephants in documentary

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lily Tomlin's admiration for elephants began when she met Ruby and Billy.

The zoo dwellers also sparked her desire to help improve the lives of elephants in captivity and the chances for survival of those in the wild. "An Apology to Elephants," a documentary produced and narrated by Tomlin, is one result. It debuted this week on HBO.

"I had done some animal activism" and donated money, Tomlin said, but becoming enlightened about elephants prompted her to focus on their plight.

The film is an unabashed polemic, calling for improved treatment of elephants in zoos and an end to the use of the animals as entertainment, which the film contends must invariably involve abuse. Circus operators do not have a say, although a zoo that has overhauled its elephant habitat weighs in.

"An Apology to Elephants"

also outlines the animal's importance to ecosystems and the dangers faced by wild African and Asian elephants, including habitat destruction and poachers after their highly marketable tusks.

Last month, leading conservation groups warned that the illegal ivory trade is growing and is hastening the decline of Africa's already endangered elephant population.

"The elephants became so symbolic to me, the evidence (of their treatment) so clear, and I wanted to tie it together and show how inured we are to that around the planet," said Tomlin, an Oscar-nominated actress ("Nashville") and comedian.

Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, said the film misrepresents its practices. "Clearly, it's a distortion of the animal care we provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week for this magnificent species. We have a team of animal care

professionals and veterinarians who spend their lives caring for these animals," said spokesman Stephen Payne.

The film also failed to include the company's conservation efforts that Feld said are international and done in concert with zoos and researchers. "As opposed to people who make one-off documentaries or protest, we put our money where our mouth is," Payne added.

The film's images are dramatic, some by contrast: We see a line of elephants silhouetted majestically against an orange African sun as well as a solitary pachyderm confined within a zoo enclosure. There also are disturbing shots, including elephants prodded by sharp-edged rods and footage of the 1903 death of a Coney Island elephant that, according to the film, had turned violent because of abuse. Thomas Edison agreed to electrocute the animal named Topsy to illustrate a certain type of current. □

Malicious But Delicious



FRANK BRUNI
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AUSTIN, Texas – For your personal health, you should probably eat more vegetables. But for the future of civilization as we know it? More pork. Feral hogs, to be exact. They're multiplying like mad – like rabbits with hooves, tusks and an epic sense of entitlement – especially in Texas, where an estimated 2.6 million of them routinely desecrate farmland by rooting up crops, decimate reptile populations by snacking on them, devour feed meant for livestock and probably do some other pernicious thing beginning in "de-" that won't come to me right now. Destroy enclosures! That's it! Feral hogs have been known to chew and stomp their way into suburban yards and even onto Army bases, said Richard Heilbrun, a biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "And when you have a military installation with a fence problem," he told me, "you have a national security problem." You also have an excellent reason to turn these hammy helions into dinner. That's what the chef Ned Elliott was up to when I dropped by his Austin restaurant, Foreign & Domestic, on Friday. He and several other cooks were using deboned flesh from two feral hogs for porchetta, the beloved Italian roasted pork dish. They planned to serve it, along with giant Asian tiger prawns and Himalayan blackberries, at a special feast at the restaurant staged in cooperation with the Texas chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The event had a saucy sobriquet, "Malicious but Delicious," and a serious mission: to raise people's awareness of, and ideally whet their appetites for, the bullies of the ecosystem, more formally known as invasive species, invasives for short. In certain areas of the United States, the hogs, the prawns and the blackberries qualify. "They're aggressive," Elliott told me, providing a tidy case for their digestion. All you principled environmentalists out there, you're being lax. Your recycling is admirable and your farmers' market patronage appreciated, but there's a whole class of animals, fish and plants that are throwing the earth out of balance, and it's time you turned not just your attention but also your bicuspid

and incisors toward them. They aren't evil in and of themselves. They just don't play so well with others, and proliferate ostentatiously. Many aren't even meant to be part of the habitats they now maraud across, but thanks to human meddling, they ended up there, then got bossy about it. "It's as if you came home from work and a bunch of people had moved into your house," said Laura Huffman, the Texas director of the Nature Conservancy. "Maybe they're nice enough, but they're still eating all your food and sitting on your furniture, and that's going to disrupt the way your family lives." She was referring not only to hogs and tiger prawns but also to European green crabs, now common in Maine, where they prey on unsuspecting scallops. Also Asian carp, the thug-gish mobsters of the Mississippi, though maybe not for long. There's been talk of rebranding them as "Kentucky tuna." Edible invasives are cataloged on a website aptly titled Eat the Invaders. It reflects a slowly growing awareness of the problem and a fledgling effort by ecologically minded chefs to address it. In New York not long ago, the chef Kerry Heffernan prepared Asian carp and lionfish, which pose a ferocious threat from the Caribbean to the Carolinas, for a dinner at the James Beard House. At Miya's Sushi in New Haven, Bun Lai regularly promotes such invasives as Asian shore crabs and burdock, a plant whose root is a delicacy in Japan. And since November, a lionfish appetizer has been a mainstay at the restaurant Haven in Houston. Its chef, Randy Evans, told me that one problem with serving it and other invasives is cost. Absent an established market for them, suppliers are few and supplies expensive. He said he paid \$20.99 a pound for fillets of lionfish, which are absurdly plentiful in the nearby Caribbean, but \$17.99 for tuna flown all the way from Hawaii. Feral hog meat, used at Haven for a "wild boar chili," is less exorbitant and more available, partly in response to a piggy population explosion sometimes called the "pig bomb." Across dozens of states, there are about 5 million feral hogs, descendants of imports from Europe, and Heilbrun said that the fecundity of females, which give birth more than once a year, is the stuff of legend. "The old joke is that their average litter size is six, but 10 survive," he told me. While Texans have accelerated their killing of hogs to about 30 percent of the population annually, that still allows for a doubling of the population over a five-year period. And that underscores the strange blind spots in the ways of us conscientious omnivores, who congratulate ourselves on foraging and on nose-to-tail eating while failing to chow down adequately on an entire breed just begging to be bacon. □



The Confidence Questions



DAVID BROOKS
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By now, many of you have seen the main Web video in the Dove "Real Beauty" campaign. It shows a police sketch artist sitting behind a curtain. He interviews women he can't see about their own faces and he draws them, based on their descriptions. Then he asks other people to describe the faces of those same women and makes another sketch. The portraits based on the women's own descriptions are sadder, less attractive and more closed-off than the portraits based on descriptions from others. But the real payoff comes as we watch the women first look at the two portraits side by side. They approach the sketches with self-conscious smiles on their faces. But when they notice how much darker and unattractive the portraits based on their self-descriptions are, the smiles collapse into looks of shocked self-realization. One woman sheds a tear. As social science, this video wouldn't pass muster (a lot depends on the biases of the artist and the editors). But it does highlight a phenomenon most of us recognize: Many women are too self-critical about their looks while many guys are too self-flattering. For me, the video raised questions that go beyond body image, questions about self-confidence. I was going to write a column about these questions, but I realized I didn't know the

answers and the studies I consulted weren't helping. So I thought this might be a job for crowdsourcing sociology. I'm going to throw out some questions. If you (women and men) send answers based on your experiences to confidence(AT)nytimes.com, I'll quote them in future columns. Please describe personal incidents, along with general observations. The first question: A generation after the feminist revolution, are women still, on average, less confident than men? For decades, surveys indicated men had a higher self-esteem than women. But there is some evidence that the gap has narrowed or vanished. A 2011 study from the University of Basel based on surveys of 7,100 young adults found that young women had as much self-esteem as young men. That tracks with some of my experience. My perception in college was that more men were seminar baboons – dominating the discussions whether they had done the reading or not. But now, when I visit college classes, the women seem just as assertive as the men. But I'm not sure that this classroom assertiveness carries out into the world of work, or today's family and friendship roles. And I'm not sure we've achieved parity when it comes to elemental confidence. When you read diaries of women born a century or centuries ago, you sometimes see them harboring doubts about their own essential importance, assumptions that they are to play a secondary role on earth, and feelings that their identity is dependent on someone else. How much does that mind-set linger? Which leads to the second question: Are women still more likely to flow into different domains in your organization? For example, a study by the Center for the Advancement of Engineering Education found that, when working in groups, highly accomplished male students gravitated toward the technical tasks, while highly

accomplished female students gravitated toward the administrative tasks. Some psychologists have observed that male self-confidence tends to be based on efficacy, how they perform tasks, while female self-confidence tends to be based on self-worth, on more general traits like integrity and compassion. If that's true, men may be more eager to prove themselves by leaping to do the hard jobs. Third: Do we undervalue the talent for self-criticism the women display in that video? Obviously, you want people to be assertive enough to leap forward, but you also want them to be self-aware enough to honestly evaluate themselves. We have piles of evidence to show that people overtrust their judgment and overestimate their goodness. Also, there is no easy correlation between self-esteem and actual performance. Maybe the self-criticism those women displayed in the Dove ad is a rare skill to be harnessed and valued, at least to a degree. Maybe the self-observation talents that lead to bad feelings because we are imperfect also lead to better decision-making and better behavior for those capable of being acutely aware of their imperfections. This leads to my final question: In society over all, are more problems caused by overconfidence or underconfidence? The financial crisis and the tenor of our political debates suggest that overconfidence and self-idolatry are by far the larger problems. If that's true, how do you combine the self-critical ability to recognize your limitations with the majestic confidence required to struggle against them? I guess I'm asking how to marry self-criticism and self-assertion, a blend our society is inarticulate about. I guess I'm wondering, as we make this blend, whether most of us need more of the stereotypically female trait of self-doubt or the stereotypically male trait of self-promotion. □

Focaccia: A bit of kneading but a lot of versatility

MELISSA CLARK

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Despite an obsession with pizza and a great love of flatbreads, I've spent strangely little time making focaccia.

Every year or so, I'll make one, devour it, and then forget about it as soon as the last of its crumbs are licked off my fingers. Because of this, I hadn't spent much time delving into what I really wanted a focaccia to be.

There are a lot of focaccia styles out there. There are thick and fluffy ones, loaded with toppings, and crispy, oily ones with a minimalist sprinkle of salt. Then there's everything in between.

I decided to stick to this middle ground and bake up something that had crisp edges while still being light and soft in the center. Baking the focaccia in a cake pan, a trick I learned from the Los Angeles chef Nancy Silverton, does just that. It encourages the exterior of the loaf to turn crunchy as it absorbs heat from the sides of the pan, while allowing the dough to rise nicely in the middle. A cake pan also made for a nice-looking, gently domed loaf, more evenly shaped than the flatter, hand-pressed focaccias I've made in the past.

The dough itself is pretty basic, enriched with olive oil and a little whole-wheat flour – not so much

that it brings to mind words like “fiber” or “healthful,” but enough to increase complexity. Another way to add flavor is to let the dough rise slowly in the fridge overnight.

I tried two different toppings – one rooted in spring (rhubarb) and one cleaving to winter (potato with sweet, caramelized garlic). This dough recipe makes enough for three focaccias. But unless you're feeding a crowd, I recommend baking one loaf at a time and freezing the remaining dough. Focaccias are best eaten the day they are baked. With the dough on hand, it will be easy to bake them often.

FOCACCIA DOUGH

Time: 15 minutes, plus rising time

Yield: 3 balls of dough (for 9-inch focaccias)

3 3/4 teaspoons active dry yeast

3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, more as needed

11 grams kosher salt (1 tablespoon)

10 grams sugar (2 teaspoons)

515 grams all-purpose flour (about 4 cups), more as needed

130 grams whole-wheat flour (about 1 cup)

1. Place 1 1/2 cups lukewarm water (105 to 115 degrees) in a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer. Sprinkle yeast over it. Let stand until foamy, about 5 minutes.



Freshly baked rhubarb focaccia. Toppings help turn focaccia from an ephemeral treat into something more memorable.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

2. Stir oil, salt and sugar into yeast mixture. Stir in all-purpose and whole-wheat flour until a soft dough forms. (You may need to add more all-purpose flour.)

3. Turn dough out onto a floured surface. Knead until it is smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes, or knead in a stand mixer with a dough hook attached for about 5 minutes. If using a stand mixer, finish dough by hand, on a floured surface, for 1 minute. Add more all-purpose flour if dough feels very sticky. (You want damp but not unworkable dough.)

4. Oil a large bowl. Place dough in bowl and turn to coat it lightly with oil. Cover bowl with a dish towel. Leave in a warm place until dough has doubled in

size, about 1 hour.

5. Divide dough into 3 equal-size balls. Tightly wrap in plastic any you are not planning to use right away and freeze. Transfer remaining balls to a baking sheet and cover loosely with a towel. Let rest for 20 to 30 minutes.

POTATO, SAGE AND LEMON ZEST FOCACCIA

Time: 50 minutes, plus time to prepare dough

Yield: 1 (9-inch) focaccia

1 ball focaccia dough (see recipe)

1/4 cup olive oil

3 cloves garlic, smashed and peeled

1 medium Yukon Gold potato (about 4 ounces), peeled

1 tablespoon sage, finely chopped

Finely grated zest of 1 small lemon

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. Place a small skillet over medium heat and add olive oil. Add garlic and cook until caramelized and golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Using a mandolin or knife, thinly slice potato. Toss with 1 tablespoon garlic oil (reserve remaining oil and garlic), sage, lemon zest, salt and pepper. Pour remaining garlic oil into bottom of a 9-inch cake pan.

2. Pat dough evenly into pan, leaving a small gap

between dough and edges of pan. Chop garlic cloves and press into dough. Layer potato-sage mixture on top. Bake until potatoes and focaccia are golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

SWEET RHUBARB FOCACCIA

Time: About 1 hour 15 minutes, plus time to prepare dough

Yield: 1 (9-inch) focaccia

1 ball focaccia dough (see recipe)

5 ounces thinly sliced rhubarb (about 1 1/2 cups)

1/3 cup granulated sugar

3 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon Demerara (raw) sugar

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. In a small bowl, toss rhubarb and granulated sugar. Let stand, stirring occasionally, until fruit releases its juices and sugar dissolves, 20 to 30 minutes.

2. Strain rhubarb juices into a small pot and reserve rhubarb.

3. Simmer juices over moderate heat until thick and syrupy, about 3 minutes. Pour olive oil into bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Pat dough evenly into pan, leaving a small gap between dough and edges of pan. Dough should be about a half-inch thick.

4. Scatter rhubarb over dough; brush generously with syrup. Sprinkle top with Demerara sugar. Bake until focaccia is golden brown, about 20 to 30 minutes. □



Freshly baked focaccia covered with potato, sage and lemon zest.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)